



# The Gospel Catholic



II Timothy 2:9

*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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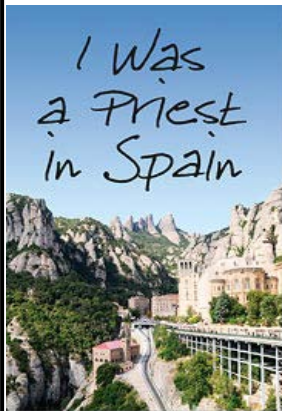
**I Was a Priest  
In Spain**  
Pages 1,2

**Facing the Truth**  
Pages 3,4,5

**New Tract Titles**  
Page 5

**Director's Letter**  
Pages 6,7

**The Message We  
Proclaim**  
Page 8



## *I Was a Priest in Spain* By Enrique Fernandez (This tract is available in English)

In 1960, I was a Roman Catholic chaplain in a nun's convent in Navelgas, a tranquil village in Asturias, Spain.

After an early supper, I usually visited the village priest, an older man, who was companionable and friendly. One night, he showed me a pamphlet entitled "The Gift" (which retakes a passage of the autobiographical writings of the former Canadian priest Charles Chiniquy). I asked permission to borrow it, and read it.

The pamphlet created an intense desire to read the Bible. I wanted to know if there was a real difference between the Catholic and Protestant Bibles. Hiding my identity, I wrote to the address on the pamphlet, requesting a Bible or a New Testament.

I began to study the New Testament, especially Acts and Hebrews. As I did, a conviction grew that the Roman Catholic Church had deviated from the Bible and that its priesthood had usurped Christ's place. The discovery of the Word of God became a thrilling adventure for me. As I continued reading, I felt the cutting reality of Hebrews 4:12 that "THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK AND POWERFUL."

Born in Madrid to devout parents in 1929, I studied in the Metropolitan Seminary of Oveido for 12 years. I was ordained on May 30, 1954. During my four years of theological studies, I had never seriously read the Bible. For me, the Holy Scriptures were only consulted as a reference book in the study of Catholic Dogma. I knew only those parts of the Bible which were included in the Mass and in the texts of the Roman Breviary.

(Continued on top of page 2)

*(I was a Priest in Spain, continued from Page 1)*

Salvation, the Roman Catholic Church said, depended on absolution of sins by a priest, and whoever refused to confess his mortal sins to a priest was eternally condemned. But, I could not find in Acts or in any other New Testament books any statement that this was so. All the sacred writers insisted that man must go directly to God for forgiveness. On the other hand, in Hebrews I read very clearly that Christ had been offered once for all for the sinner. “Then,” I said, “How dare the Council of Trent declare in 1562 that in the Mass Christ offers himself by the hands of the priest in a true and real sacrifice to God?”

Then I also found that the justification was only by faith, and I reasoned: “If I had not found peace of soul in the Roman Catholic Church, could it be perhaps because I had expected to gain it as a reward for my own efforts?” In such a manner, I suddenly understood that Jesus Christ asked nothing of me, and I relinquished all my own effort to gain salvation. So Jesus Christ became my only Lord and Savior.

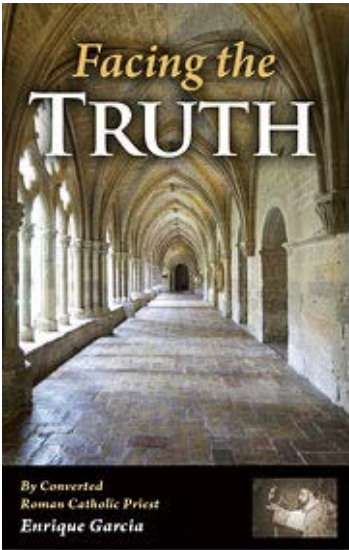
Through the Mission, “De Spaanse Evangelische Zending” in the Netherlands, I was put in touch with a former Spanish priest of the Roman Catholic Church. He directed me to the Dutch Foundation, “In De Rechte Straat” (Into the Straight Street), because this Protestant organization had for several years been helping priests who left the Roman Catholic Church. On May 2, 1961, I arrived in Brussels; later, I went to Hilversum, Holland. Then, I sent a letter to my Archbishop, telling him: “I have discovered the Word of God, and Jesus Christ has presented Himself to me as my only Lord and Savior. Rome claims that Catholicism is centered in Christ, but in reality has turned its back on Him.”

Afterward, I went to San Jose, Costa Rica, where I received, on November 25, 1963, a Bachelor of Theology in the Latin American Theological Seminary. Finally, I spent several months in Guatemala, before coming to the United States, where I have been preaching the Gospel since Jun 1, 1964, to the Spanish speaking people.

My fervent desire is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, longing to carry the Gospel of Grace to the people and tell them what great things the Lord has done for me. What He has done for me, He can do for them...for you!

“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins” (Rev. 18:4). “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19a). I invite all who read this tract to give your heart to Jesus Christ as your only, perfect and all-sufficient Savior and affiliate with a Christ-honoring, Bible-teaching fundamental church. –Enrique Fernandez





# *Facing the Truth*

*By Enrique Garcia*

At the age of twelve, I entered a Capuchin convent. I was looking for truth in a setting which I thought would help me to find God. The convent was located on the outskirts of Madrid, Spain, the city where I was born. Thus, with this life in the convent I began my pilgrimage toward God through the denial of all rights to myself. The theory of mortification is very ancient and is closely associated with Roman

Catholic thought. Moreover, the philosophical mysticism of Spain embraces the practice of mortification as the method whereby one may find God. "To mortify" means to die slowly. That which dies is one's own personality.

After several years of preparation and at the age of seventeen, I took the vows of obedience. I renounced all right to personal control of everything. He who is perfectly obedient submits to one mind and to one will that is, the mind and will of his superior. In a convent it is impossible to do anything which is not controlled. Carefully defined laws and declarations provide the norm by which all must live and outside of which no one must dare to venture.

The vow of chastity presupposes not only a voluntary renunciation of marriage rights but also of all pleasures and all friendships which are not approved. In order to gain complete domination and control of all human desires a number of tormenting practices were observed regularly. The following are examples;



*Four fasts per year, each being forty days duration without interruption*

*Discipline of blood three times per week. This was carried out by the use of several strands of steel wire attached to a handle.*

*The wearing of haircloth against the body day and night.*

*A bed of boards including the presence of leaves from the corn stalk as well as other things to torment the body.*

These were meant to prepare my body for the total renunciation which my station in life demanded. *(Continued on top of Page 4)*



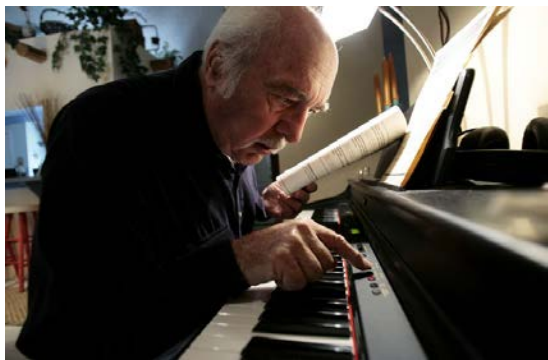
**“Facing the Truth”, continued from page 3**

With the vow of poverty I promised not to have money at my disposal. Rather, I was to live in entire dependence upon those who would allow me the use of things necessary to my existence. The devout Capuchin can only use things made available to him. He cannot become owner of such things.

The great system of ascetic practices with which I had been identified since childhood was now well developed. Hopefully, I waited to see the fruits of my sufferings and labors. But the fruits so highly desired never materialized! In my innermost being there was only loneliness, desolation and fear. I was fearful of everything --- fearful of life, fearful of love. I was afraid of my own resolution and afraid of God. Now at the age of thirty-three, I realized that my entire life pattern could be explained in one word: “NO!”. “Don’t do this, don’t do that! Don’t think!...No, no, no!”

The arts presented the brightest spot in my convent life. While there, I was able to learn and practice music. Music became an indispensable necessity in my life by which I could relieve the enormous pressures of my inner self.

After I had become a priest and subsequent studies in the field of music, I decided to give more time to the study of the piano. I looked for a competent teacher and it was in the way that Americo Caramuta entered my life and became a part of the small and circumscribed world in which I lived. Later on I learned that he was an evangelical Christian and a Baptist church member. As for myself, my life continued to be one of complete darkness. At the same time, however, there grew within me the longing to really live. The kind of existence which I had experienced became entirely unacceptable to me. I wanted to make a complete break with it! But, I was afraid! I needed someone so desperately who would re-orient and direct me, someone who would instill strength. Americo was the man! I shared my deep crisis with him



and in our conversations he answered my questions from the Bible, the Word of God. Slowly, light began to dawn as I realized that the many beliefs which I had considered infallible did not have any firm foundation whatsoever in the Word of God, beliefs such as the priesthood, papal infallibility, the sacraments and many others.

My separation from everything associated with Catholicism was now confirmed. But as I looked to the outside world, I began to panic! At the age of twelve I had entered a convent; now I was thirty-three years old. My whole life had been lived in this atmosphere. All of my studies were related to this kind of life. What would I do outside this life where I had spent my best years? Everything became a big question! My family, my friendships, my future, everything demanded answers! Nevertheless, I made a clear decision and left the convent and the Catholic Church.

Subsequently, I began to attend the services of the Baptist church in Madrid and on the second Sunday I responded to the invitation of the pastor. I felt great joy in my heart!

**(Continued on top of page 5)**



**(Facing the Truth continued from page 4)** Alone with God, in my home, I ceased my futile efforts to gain salvation through my own works. I knew that works could never save. My whole life had given clear proof of this fact. I gave myself entirely to God with a new and holy passion. I received Christ as the one and only Savior of my soul and He came to me through a simple yet very definite peace such as I had never experienced hitherto. I was now Christ's and He loved me. This was the secret! I was baptized in the church in the city of Madrid.

Later on, I became enrolled in the Baptist Seminary of Barcelona and completed my studies in Theology and Religious Education. The Lord has called me as a minister in His Church and The Conversion Center (formerly) in Havertown, PA made it possible for me to come to the USA to complete my studies in the Bible and music.

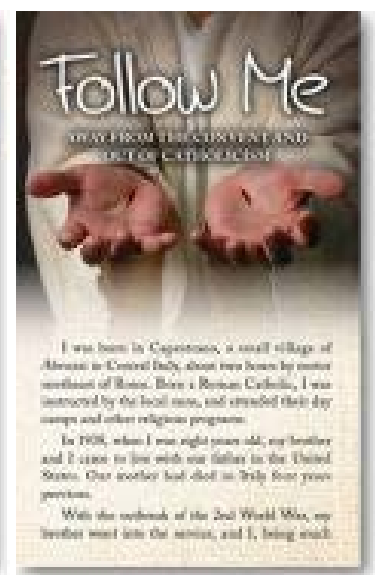
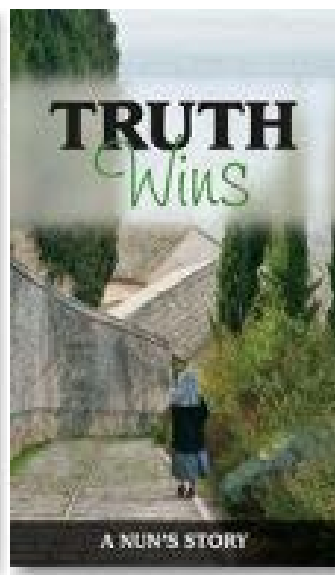
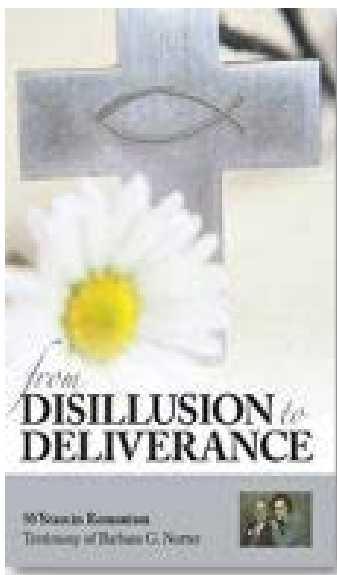


In order to find the truth, it was necessary to pay a price, but I have never regretted it. There were seven long years of struggles and conflict. But at the last I was able to testify to the reality of Christ in my life, the same Christ Who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Do YOU know that heaven is your home? I trust that you will give your heart to Christ. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). –Enrique Garcia



## Most Recent Titles Printed





## *Dear Reader,*

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support of The Conversion Center. As I work on this edition of “The Gospel Catholic”, it’s Thanksgiving week. I always try to sit back and reminisce on how God has worked through this ministry every time we send out the newsletter but especially the fall edition. In the next pages, I want to share some things we are thankful for and some prayer requests.

## *Personal*

Our health has been very good for the last months. Rachel’s Dad has had a small growth in his cancerous tumors with an additional spot found in one of his lungs.

However, he is on a “chemo holiday”, taking a break from treatments since the growth has been so slow and the tumors are still so small. So, thank you so much for praying. It’s very encouraging to hear when you write in and tell us that you pray for him. It’s especially encouraging to him to hear of people praying for him whom he’s never met before but care just the same. Thank you.

The children are doing very well. Stephen is progressing through first grade very well and has been a real travel companion to me. Katie is almost four years of age and makes friends in so many different places we travel. Trisha is 18 months old and is working on talking. We don’t understand what she says, but she is very emphatic. We are so thankful to have three healthy children.

## *Ministry*

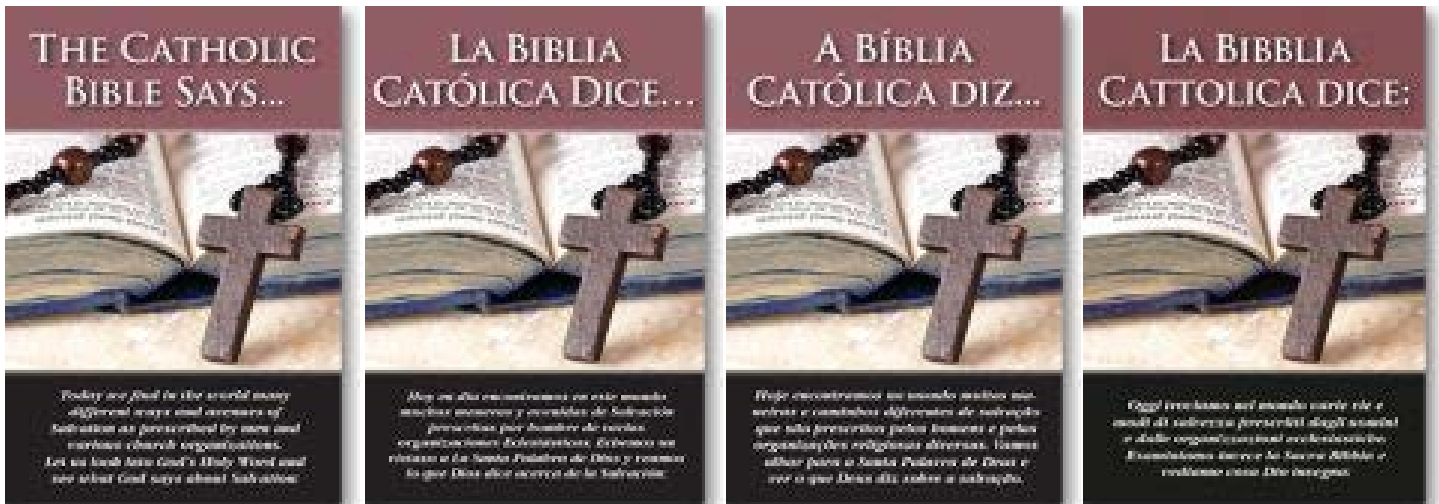
We have been on several trips since we last communicated. We had our Annual Rally in North Stonington, CT and the family travelled with me to various churches in the South East. Stephen and I went to the Midwest and I had the opportunity to speak in several churches as well as the National conference for the King James Bible Research Council. They have since asked me to take a trip to Grenada for the first ever KJBRC conference in the Carribean. I would appreciate your prayers as I will likely have an opportunity to speak at several Independent Baptist churches there on the island. There are 13 that are there and it would be wonderful to be able to supply those churches with literature on how to reach Roman Catholics. That trip will happen next December.

On another note, I have spoken to a friend of mine who is a missionary in Puerto Rico. He invited me to come, and this April, I will be going to Puerto Rico for 10 days. We have supplied him and some others with Spanish tracts in times past and it is my desire to supply many of the other missionaries and pastors that are there. Most of my travels have been focused on the eastern half of the United States, but I will be making a concerted effort to reach out further.

## *Translation*

Thank you for praying for our translation projects. We now have 13 tracts translated into Spanish, 11 into Portuguese and four into Italian. *(Continued on page 7)*

(Letter from the Editor, continued from page 6) Our prayer has been that we would have tracts in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French. We have four tracts in four languages right now. I am pleased to announce that we have found a good, French translator. He is a veteran missionary with a great deal of translating experience so please pray for Bro. LaLonde as he begins work. I also had a couple approach me on a recent trip and tell me that they would be willing to oversee the translation of our tracts into Romanian. This was a language not on my “radar” but it would be a blessing to have tracts in another language with so many speakers who are steeped in Roman Catholicism. Lastly, I want to show you what one of our tracts, “The Catholic Bible Says” looks like in all four languages. In order, they are English, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian:



## *Prayer Requests*

I would like to leave some prayer requests with you, if I may. 1. On a personal note, I would appreciate your prayers for our van. The transmission has been giving us some concern and we have quite a few miles on it. It is our desire to purchase a newer one next year and are praying that this one will hold up in the meantime. 2. I am excited to go on these longer trips (Puerto Rico and Grenada) next year. My request is that you would pray that I get the funds to make them. My ticket to Puerto Rico in May has been cared for but the remaining parts of those trips will be quite costly. 3. Please pray for hearts to be prepared for when I go to these particular fields. I am praying that we can help churches and missionaries there. 4. Please pray for our translation projects in these languages. To get all 29 of our titles translated and printed into French will cost just over \$4,000. We still have quite a few to finish in Portuguese and Spanish and will need almost the same amount to finish up those languages. Please pray for the funds to put these tracts into print. 5. Please pray for the funds to continue to reprint tracts. In the last week, I have sent a packet of tracts to a missionary working with an Indian tribe in South Dakota and another packet to a missionary in the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas. It is his desire to supply missionaries and pastors in Mexico. God is really opening doors for us! 6. Please pray for wisdom for me in directing the mission. There are tough decisions that come across my path and I always need the leading of the Holy Ghost on how to best lead this work. It's a real blessing to be a part of this; thank you for your part!

Sincerely,  
Mark T. Reno, Director  
Page 7



# 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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**International Headquarters Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 384 Hagerstown, Md. 21741-0384

**Telephone** (301) 790-2593 **Website address is** [www.theconversioncenter.com](http://www.theconversioncenter.com)