



II Timothy 2:9

The Gospel Catholic

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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No. 2
Spring 2017**

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"Treasures For Tracts"

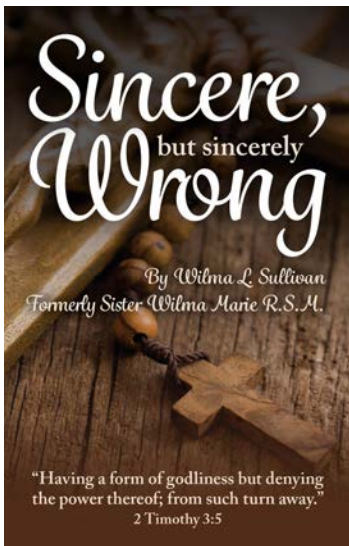
Toward the end of 2016, my wife and I were burdened to think of ways we could raise money to help pay for our various tract projects. We have begun "Treasures For Tracts". We purchase treasure chest shaped boxes



and will mail them (at our expense) to you upon your request. All we ask is that you collect loose change (and bills, if you like) to help us print tracts. Then, if you could "cash-in" the change and mail us a check or money order at least twice a year, we will apply the money to our tract

printing fund. You will also receive a thank you note indicating what will be printed with your gift and also a giving receipt. Our initial goal had been to raise \$100/month and we've already surpassed that. I am praying for 100 chests to be sent out by the end of 2017. Please prayerfully consider using a box in your home and/or church to help send the Gospel to lost souls. (The cost of the boxes and shipping is being paid for by my wife and me so there is no expense to *The Conversion Center*.) We also offer "unfinished" chests giving you the option to decorate them to make them unique. Our youngest Sunday School class at our church enjoyed painting ours! God bless— *Mark T. Reno*





Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong

By Wilma L. Sullivan

Formerly Sister Wilma Marie R.S.M.

"Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away."

2 Timothy 3:5

Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong

"Sincere" and "zealous" are the words which describe the religious aspects of my life for twenty-nine and half years as a Roman Catholic. I so desired to do what was right. I went to Mass, received the sacraments, loved my neighbors, and basically tried to do good to all people. I always thought that by going to Mass, doing good and being nice to people was the way to get to Heaven. The desire to do good to all people led me to become a member of a religious order, the Sisters of Mercy, for four years, 1967-1971.

In October of 1973, while waiting to undergo surgery, another patient came into my hospital room and asked me a question. The question would lead me to a totally new life in Christ as a child of God. "If you were to die in surgery today, Wilma, do you know for sure that you would go to Heaven?" she asked. "Yes, I do", I replied. Our conversation was interrupted at that point by a nurse ordering her back into her room across the hall.

During the next two weeks, however, we did talk more about where I would spend eternity. She showed me verses from the Bible that salvation—going to Heaven—is a free gift. She explained that there was nothing I could do earn that gift except receive it by faith, because the Bible says 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."*** Again, in Titus 3:5-6 it states that it is ***"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."***

I needed to realize that I was a sinner and that I needed to be a saved, born-again, child of God. Unless I trusted Christ alone to save me, I could never hope to live in Heaven with a holy God who would not allow even one lie to exist in His holy dwelling.

"Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong", continued on top of page 3

“Sincere, But Sincerely Wrong”, Continued from page 2

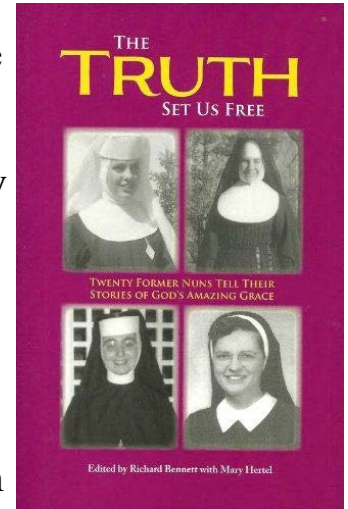
On November 11, 1973, I realized that I was lost. I was on my way to Hell to receive the just payment for being a sinner is ***“the wages of sin is death...”*** I realized that only Jesus Christ could take away my sins ***“once for all.”*** The only way that I could ever be saved was to trust totally in Jesus Christ’s death on the cross for my sins, and realize that His resurrection from the tomb showed His power over sin and death. I was saved that night because I claimed God’s promise in Romans 10:13 that if I would **call upon the name of the Lord** I would be saved. Assurance of eternal life with Christ in Heaven was freely given to me that night simply by claiming the promises of the God who cannot lie.

Since then, I have come to realize that before I trusted Christ as my personal Savior, I had a “form of godliness, but (I) denied the power thereof.” I have searched the Bible diligently to find the will of God for my life and do it. Worshipping God is man’s purpose for living. Jesus said, ***“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him MUST worship Him in Spirit and in truth.”*** Man is separated from God by sin. He must be born again before communication with God is possible. True worship is possible only after the sinner has been born again. When a man is alive spiritually through the new birth, he will worship God in truth by **obeying God’s Word**— not man’s traditions.

As I compared the sacraments of Catholicism— communion, baptism, penance, etc.— with the Bible, I discovered that they differed from the other. For example, regarding **“communion”**, the Bible states that Jesus needed to die only once for man’s sin, while Catholicism claims that He must die **daily** for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible declares that **“baptism”** is only an outward expression of the inward repentance of a sinner, while Catholicism claims that the rite of baptism takes away original sin and makes a person a child of God. **“Penance”** in Catholicism is when a priest forgives a person for his sins. This is unscriptural because the Bible states that there is only **one mediator between God and men— the man Christ Jesus— and no one else!** This same verse also helped me to realize that no “saint” can or will hear and answer prayer for me— only Christ.

These obvious contradictions with Scripture confronted me with the most important and difficult decision I ever had to make. I had to decide to **believe the God** Who cannot lie and follow His way in the Bible, or **believe man** who can make mistakes. I decided on December 16, 1973 to leave Catholicism and to do only what the Bible commanded, and simply leave the results with God. I can honestly testify that I have never regretted my decision and have, by His love which constrains me, “grown in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” I now can say **“I am sincere, and sincerely right!”**

I extend a personal invitation to anyone who reads this testimony to ***“come,...take the water of life freely,”*** that you may ***“worship Him in Spirit and in truth”*** for His glory, for your eternal salvation, and for the good of others. —**Wilma L. Sullivan**



The Unsearchable Ways of God

By Mary Hartel

formerly Sister Mary Dolores, C.S.D

Editor's note: Mary Hartel has been a real friend to The Conversion Center and is the co-editor of the book "The Truth Set Us Free". Her testimony will be in the next couple of editions of "The Gospel Catholic". This is part one.

Having taken the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a Roman Catholic diocesan order, my steps were set in the logical direction prepared by my youth. Raised in a strong Catholic home, educated in Catholic schools for sixteen years, and trained by six years of convent life, I lived with an eagerness to serve God as a teacher. This desire did not change when I left the convent in 1969. Two years later, I married a man whose background was strikingly similar, including four years in the seminary and a commitment to teaching. Yet, despite these roots, God's unsearchable ways set me on a new path that brought me face to face with truth in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ.



Early Years

While God's ways are a mystery to me, His grace is unmistakable as I reflect back on my life at age fifty in the year 1995. The third in a family of four, I shared a relatively stable home environment around the alcoholism of my father. My mother worried continuously, particularly about finances and my father's condition between the two to three jobs he worked. Mass and Communion, rosaries, novenas, and the other special devotions to Mary, the Sacred Heart, the Infant of Prague, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Christopher and others were rituals of our daily life. When our family home was honored by our parish with the rotating statue of Mary, daily rosary on our knees and other devotional prayers were intensified. My mother took church rules seriously. Fasting and abstinence for Advent and Lent and meatless Fridays were carefully observed. The fat of bacon or gravy from meat was scrupulously avoided in meal preparation during these times. Obtaining indulgences and purchasing Masses for the deceased was performed as a means of shortening time in purgatory. There was a heaviness in our home, yet there was a stability regarding the life-long commitment of marriage, attendance at church and association with only Catholics as friends and even acquaintances. *"The Unsearchable Ways of God", continued on top of page 5*

“The Unsearchable Ways of God”, continued from page 4 The few extended family members that violated these patterns were rarely seen, spoken of infrequently, and their marriage ceremonies were not attended.

Religious Life

Until I was in my twenties, I was never inside a non-Roman Catholic Church. Religious and priests were held in high esteem and thought to be both holier and wiser than the laity. A cousin, Vin, entered into the Marianist brotherhood at age 15, a decision held above the strong marriage relationships in our family. Vin influenced his two younger sisters, Sue and Peg, who later entered the Ursuline convent. Two years after Vin’s youngest sister entered the convent, I made the same decision, to the delight of my family. The diocesan order known as the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph, which had taught me all through elementary and high school, would enable me to fulfill my dream of going to college and becoming a teacher.

This decision to become a religious was supported especially by my mother. It was a matter of pride and honor for the family. At the time I entered in 1963, the rule was that I would never return home. As a postulant, communication with family was monitored (letters written home and received from home were read) and strict rules were in place for the years of training. After the first year, a bridal ceremony followed by the cutting of my hair, and dressing in full restrictive habit ushered me into the Novitate. I was now sister Mary Dolora. I spent a year away from college for serious formation.

During this year, I was indoctrinated in the proper manner of thought, speech and behavior for a professed religious. For example silence, limitations regarding with whom I could talk and when and not being able to attend my sister Carol’s wedding began to raise questions regarding the purpose of such restrictions. Learning obedience involved such practices as falling on one’s knees to ask for penance when there was an infraction of the rules. On one occasion, I personally struggled



when this humiliating practice was imposed on me because I had talked to a lonely older sister during infirmity duty. By the end of the third year, massive change was sweeping the Roman Catholic Church and some of it reached our small diocesan order. The year before my class was to begin self-flagellation as a means to higher spirituality, the practice was discontinued. By my second year in the novitiate, even my class was vested with the surprising responsibility by designing a much less confining habit. Rules were examined at a special congregation meeting of all the superiors. Soon, the hated ban on visiting home was lifted. *“The Unsearchable Ways of God” will be continued in future edition(s) of “The Gospel Catholic”*



Dear Reader,

I want to thank you so much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read ***“The Gospel Catholic”***. When I published the last edition, I told you about our “Treasures For Tracts” project and we are thrilled with how the Lord is using it. I just received a check from a small church in north Georgia for \$100 that they had collected in their box. The church in Puerto Rico that is hosting our tract depot has asked for a box and I am blessed that they want to give back to something from which they have benefitted. The church in Connecticut that received 10,000 of our tracts a year ago has also asked for a box and this has been so encouraging. As was mentioned earlier, if you would be willing to collect loose change to help us print tracts for various mission points and in our packets that we offer freely, please contact us via email, phone or letter. I will happily send you one at our expense. God bless!

Personal

In the last issue, I told you that Rachel’s Dad was told that his cancer was terminal. We were contacted by SO many of you, telling us that you were praying for us and for Rachel’s family. The doctors were indeed correct and after a decade of fighting cancer, my father in law went to be with the Lord on March 25th. The funeral and graveside were a week later. It has been a hard time of grieving for the family but there is a real peace in knowing that he doesn’t suffer anymore. 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14 tells us ***“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”*** We would appreciate your prayers for the family and church as they grieve. The church, for the first time in their forty-one year history, is in the midst of a search for a pastor. Please pray that the Lord will allow them to find the right man for them.



Our travelling schedule has been full recently. At one point, we made 7 trips to visit with Rachel’s family in a period of a month. I will be making two trips in May and likely one in June. Lord willing, we will be gone for nearly all of July visiting churches and pastors in four different states ranging from Georgia to Wisconsin. This is our longest trip of the year and we look forward to it as a family.

[Letter from the editor, finished on page 7](#)

Letter from the Editor, continued from page 6

We are so thankful for the many trouble free miles God has given us and the remarkable reliability of our vehicles. I have just passed 200,000 miles on my car and hope to get many more out of it.

The rest of our family is doing well, under the circumstances. Stephen (9) has finished third grade and is excited to have a long summer. As you may know, he wants to be a missionary pilot and cuts grass and does odd jobs to save for flight school. We are thankful for his goals and pray for it to happen.



One church we visited in Alabama took up an offering to help him with his savings. Katie (6) has finished kindergarten and is learning how to help out around the house. Trisha (4) has a humorous personality and is good for a few laughs daily, as you can see at left. Reuben has just turned one and loves to walk and play with his siblings. We are so thankful for the children God has allowed us to have.



Ministry

We have recently discovered two possible options for a French translator. We have wanted to get our tracts translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French and Tagalog. The first three languages have been going slowly, but surely and we are praying that the Lord allows us to move forward.

Our Annual Rally will be held in El Paso, TX at Westside Baptist Temple on October 18,19 at 7pm. This church has been hosting our tract depot on the Texas/Mexico border. Last year, we tried something new and had services on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. In previous years, it had only been held on Thursday nights. This year we are going to also have services both nights but with a twist. The Wednesday night service will be with the English-speaking congregation and Thursday night will be the Spanish-speaking congregation. Pastors Carl Chitwood and Pedro Pantoja have been very gracious to The Conversion Center and the church has a real passion for reaching souls. If you can, please make plans to attend our Annual Rally. We have made a real effort to move it around geographically and have been pleased to have it in PA, MD, NC, CT, WI, FL and now TX in the last 8 years.



Conclusion

Lastly, we are very pleased to announce that Dr. David Brown has agreed to join the board of directors for The Conversion Center. He has assisted us on many projects, hosted one of our Annual Rallies and spoke at last year's Rally. His background in history and leadership at the King James Bible Research Council make him an invaluable addition. We thank him for his willingness to be a help!



God bless you all! We thank you for your giving and ask you to continue to pray for us as we reach Roman Catholics for Christ!

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, and Fundamental, New Testament Christian Church.

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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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