



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. 3  
Summer 2017

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## The Conversion Center's 2017 Annual Rally October 18-19 Westside Baptist Temple 901 W. Borderland Rd. El Paso, TX

Our Annual Rally will have services on Wednesday and Thursday nights. We will have an English service on Wednesday night and a Spanish service on Thursday night. Our Director, Mark Reno, will preach Wednesday night and our Vice Chairman, Dr. Stephen Zeinner, will be preaching Thursday night. Both will be speaking primarily to believers on the need to reach our Catholic loved ones.

Come to lovely El Paso on the Texas/Mexican border! This church has been the gracious host of our tract depot since last year and we are thrilled to be with them again. Lord willing, we will have our tract table and some of our books and booklets on display for you.





# ***Pendergrass Flea Market- La Vaquita (The Little Cow) The World has come to North Georgia!***

A couple of years ago, I was going to visit this flea market when we were in the area. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays and is advertised as the nation's largest indoor flea market. I was handed a pamphlet on the way in and didn't take notice because my attention was on our kids. Later, I realized that it was a Gospel tract and after some research, I found out who had given it to me. Bro. Mealor is a retired pastor who stands outside and hands out tracts when he is able. I became burdened earlier this year to approach him about the idea of establishing of a booth inside, out of the elements. Here are some things that got my attention.

## **NEED**

The Pendergrass flea market has an estimated 30 to 40 thousand people come through every weekend. Most of them are Hispanics and a majority of them are Roman Catholic. Bro. Mealor says that you will meet people from all parts of the world and several religious organizations have already established a presence. We plan to start a booth in the first weekend of September. Each week will cost \$100 for booth rental and another \$150 for tracts and supplies. You can make a designated gift toward this project by marking your gift, "Flea Market". Also, if you take advantage of the book offer enclosed, all extra moneys coming in will go toward this project.



## **PROGRESS**

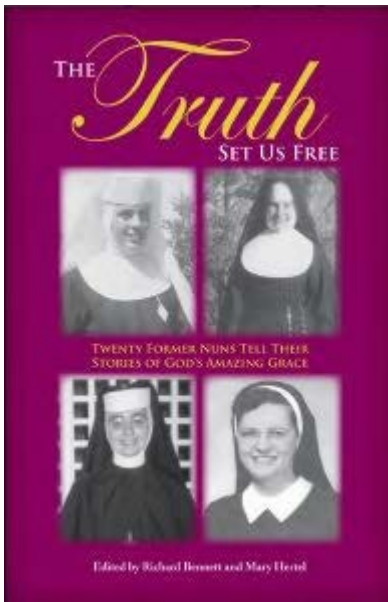
At the time of this printing, we have had enough money come in for renting the booth through the middle of October. Lord willing, I will be taking a trip to Georgia in early September to get this established. I have ordered 17,000 tracts to get started. Depending on our booth location, we will see how our distribution goes. Bro. Mealor has given out over 300,000 tracts in the last seven years and he has not been able to go each weekend.

## **PRAYER**

Please pray that we will have a large number of volunteers who will be willing and able to work at the booth and also that the funds will come in for this project on a consistent basis. The opportunity to reach tens of thousands of dear souls is amazing!-

*MTR*





# *The Unsearchable Ways of God*

## *By Mary Hartel*

### *(Part two)*

*(Editor's note: In the previous edition, we saw that Mary's early childhood was one of stability and a devout life given to the Roman Catholic Church. We also saw that her desire to become a nun was welcomed and her first year in the convent was spent learning how to obey in the most detailed ways. We ended with her mentioning that the RCC was changing rules for conduct, including the discontinuing of self-flagellation.)*

### *Arbitrary Change*

With all of the change, questions about the significance of arbitrary rules began to concern me. How could these rules be so important one day and dismissed the next? There were abuses during the changes that reimposed some disciplines and older sisters in authority saw major problems developing. An example occurred during my first year of teaching at a parish assignment. Word of "friendly" parties involving priests and nuns, which included dancing and frivolity got back to the motherhouse and our local parish convent was verbally chastised and watched.

In addition, permission I had been given to visit a wonderful family in the parish was withdrawn. I found this particularly troubling since the wife had grown up on my street and her husband, George, had multiple sclerosis that paralyzed him from the neck down. I was able to share many things with them and their three children, most importantly, a listening ear, laughter and tears. The witness of love in this family left a great impression on me. Being unable to visit made no sense. Later that same year, when one of my sixth grade students, Jeff, sustained a serious head injury, only plaintive pleas from his mother enabled me to tutor him in the hospital during his long recovery. At no time was there any clear basis for the arbitrary rule changes, only a fear of serious infractions. It was God's grace that enabled me to learn and move on from the situations with George and Jeff. Rules, intended to produce holiness through behavior control, were shallow in the face of real life challenges.

### *A Leave of Absence*

In 1969, near the end of my first full year in a parish teaching assignment, I seriously considered a leave of absence from religious life. Prior to this year, leaving the convent after taking vows would have meant failure or disgrace. However, now the request to take a year to evaluate one's vocation was acceptable. While I was not the only one thinking this way, I was the first from my class of nine to submit a meeting with the Mother Superior.

*(Editor's note; "The Unsearchable Ways of God" by Mary Hartel is continued on page 4)*

### *“The Unsearchable Ways of God”, continued from page 3*

I know my family was disappointed, but I did not focus on their approval. Instead, I determined to move forward from the confinement of convent life to an environment that would foster personal query. It was June of 1969. I had only the clothes on my back and a small savings from high school employment that my parents kept in my name. After two weeks at home, I attended Ohio State University with another convent sister and then took a teaching position in Chicago, moving into a large inner city home with a civil rights leader, Margaret Ellen Traxler, also a nun. I shared a room with a classmate from the convent and we lived in the home with other nuns who worked with Margaret Ellen. After a sheltered convent life, that summer of ‘69 and the year that followed opened my eyes to all the “flavor” of the late sixties— war, protests, racial tensions, alcohol, drugs, free sex, undisciplined hours, discussions of Middle Eastern mystical philosophies— in a volatile large city. Moral standards learned in my home and the grace of God, which I didn’t recognize until much later, protected me both physically and spiritually. Many around me from similar backgrounds were choosing self-destructive lifestyles.



### *Marriage*

When I recall the situations I was in during these years in Chicago, I marvel at God’s hand of protection. His care for me included living in Hyde Park, a racially mixed community, during a time of much racial tension, and University of Chicago parties where free sex, drugs, bazaar thinking with drugged or duped minds, and generally loose living abounded. After dating a number of relatively stable men in such an environment, I met my husband, Bernie, an ex-seminarian. It was early in 1970 and I was twenty-five. With comparable backgrounds giving us much in common, we dated only a few weeks before talking of marriage. However, we took a full year to become acquainted with our families in Ohio and Wisconsin and to lay careful plans for our wedding.

For our marriage ceremony, we chose the church where I taught my last year in the convent rather than my family parish. My Superior from that assignment was there as well as George’s widow and others I knew from my teaching. Both Bernie and I were very family oriented and decided to settle in Michigan, within a day’s drive of our parents. Here we began our family and lived as active members of St. Peter’s Parish for five and half years.

### *Times of Testing*

Our two children were ages two and four months when my mother was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Frequent travel from Michigan to Ohio during her rapid decline required many arrangements and a doubling of duties for my husband. She died less than six months after being diagnosed. A year later, I was six weeks pregnant with our third child when I received a call from my sister. When our father failed to show up for dinner at her home, she found him dead in bed. *(Editor’s note; “The Unsearchable Ways of God” by Mary Hartel is continued on page 5)*

**“The Unsearchable Ways of God”, continued from page 4**

Throughout this difficult time, Bernie was the Lord’s provision of support.

Six months after my father’s death, we moved to the Milwaukee area. During the following six months, Bernie’s mother had open-heart surgery during which she experienced a partially disabling stroke, our third daughter was born and Bernie went through two difficult job changes. It seemed as though our lives were in constant upheaval. Among my part time jobs was a position as religious education director for a large parish in our suburban community. It was here that I was introduced to values clarification, a move away from the clear moral traditions and doctrines of Roman Catholicism, and the diminished use of the sacrament of confession. These practices and an introduction to increasingly liberal teachings of men like Daniel Maguire of Marquette University and Archbishop Rembert Weakland produced growing confusion.

In some cases I seriously questioned these new trends and in other cases I accepted them as a positive new direction. It was “in” to be a part of the new ideas. All three of our daughters were baptized, made their first communion and were taught reconciliation (formerly the sacrament of confession), although it was not practiced at our parish. During the eleven years we were at this parish, I taught and wrote the curriculum for CCD classes and/or directed religious education programs.



*Uprooting*

The last year and a half at this parish, Bernie and I taught high school confirmation classes together in our home. Ironically, God used this program and the man who directed it to complete the groundwork that would dislodge our deep roots in Roman Catholicism. When the director gave us and our students each a Roman Catholic Bible, he could not have known that he had provided not simply a resource but a vehicle of liberation. This was the beginning of our study of the Word of God.

The Confirmation textbook given with the Bible presented not doctrine but the social gospel—a system of works that were to be the sanctifying process for the “Christian”. Homilies were no better. Talks with our pastor about concerns went nowhere. Serious moral situations that surfaced in discussions with our students made it clear that there was no spiritual foundation for decision-making. Again, by God’s grace, we were directed to turn to the Bible. A growing discomfort with what appeared to be a course headed for destruction fostered a desire in me for a much more conservative position. Strong family values and the moral foundation we hoped to pass on to our students as well as our daughters were no longer sustained by our parish church.

Our oldest daughter, Laura, was in confirmation classes this same year with another couple. She too was experiencing great difficulty with the material, particularly the way students ignored more traditional positions. At the same time, the public schools where all three of our daughters attended, proposed liberal sex education curriculums.

**“The Unsearchable Ways of God” by Mary Hartel continued on page 6)**



**“The Unsearchable Ways of God”, continued from page 4**

Concern about this material introduced me to a whole new set of friends who were confident in their beliefs and what they wanted for their children. Lowering standards to “fit the times” was not in their thinking. Working with this group of people in a difficult fight for the welfare of our children brought Bernie and me into more and more contact with the Word of God.

**Editor’s note; We will continue the testimony of Mary Hartel, Lord willing, in the next edition of “The Gospel Catholic”.**



Dear Reader,

Thank you so much for reading this edition of “The Gospel Catholic”. We have had many things happen in the last several months and I will try to update you as well as leave you with some specific prayer requests.

**PERSONAL**

Our family is doing very well right now. We have just returned from a 12 stop, 25 day trip and while it was very tiring, all seemed to enjoy it. We have learned that the children seem to do well on trips, especially if we make the effort to have breaks in them. Please pray as the older two will be starting school soon and Rachel will have that added responsibility.

Our personal support has moved up to 75% and we are thankful for that. Please pray that the remaining funds come in. This will enable us to do more for the ministry and enable us to upgrade my vehicle in the near future. We are thankful for the many trouble free miles it has given us thus far. We pray that this continues to be the case.



**PROJECTS**

Our tract printing for the year is currently at 59,000. We have been praying for 200,000 this year and clearly, we are behind schedule. But, the Lord knows this and we are asking you to pray for us to be able print more tracts this fall. I will be taking a trip to check in on our tract depot in NY at the time of this printing. Also, I will be able to check on the El Paso tract depot when we are there for our Annual Rally.

**Letter from the Director”, continued on page 7.**

**“Letter From the Editor”, continued from page 6** Our missionary contact in Puerto Rico is turning over the church to a national pastor who will continue to oversee the tract depot there.

I want to share some encouraging news on the flea market project that was mentioned on page 2. I had been in GA and was praying about starting the flea market in September. On my way up to IN, I met with a friend who gave me a check for the project. It was for \$500. When I looked at my calendar, I saw that there are five weekends in September. In other words, I had enough for the booth rental for the month. Four days later, I received a call that a lady (I’ve never met) had sent a **MATCHING** amount to go towards the tracts. When we arrived home, a family from NY had heard about the project and sent the **SAME** amount to help!

I “teased” earlier that I would tell you a story about our tract printing. Several years ago, I implemented a policy that the tracts would be available on a free will offering basis. Initially, tracts were sold and it concerned me that some with limited incomes were unable to buy the tracts they needed. I have received criticism for this, some even mentioning that this isn’t the way it’s been done and questioning the “business sense” of it. When I changed the policy, I noticed that we would get requests from Mary P., a 95 year old widow in MA. What made this noteworthy is that within a week and most often in the SAME batch of mail, a Mr. O. from TN would send a check for us to print tracts. It always is more than enough to provide for Mary’s order. These dear saints will likely never meet this side of Heaven, but I rejoice in the Lord’s provision, knowing that He will reward them for their faithfulness.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

I have been in contact with the nun, Rose. 1.) Please be in prayer for her health. She has had some concerns recently. 2.) Please be in prayer for the funds and volunteers needed for the flea market project. You can “like” our Facebook page for more current updates. 3.) Please pray for funds for The Conversion Center’s General Fund. We would like to dedicate more funds to packets of tracts and prisoner correspondence but are unable to do so. 4.) Please pray for safety for me and my family as we travel. God protected us and provided during our trip. 5.) Please pray for our Annual Rally to be held in El Paso, TX. I am praying that we will be able to be a blessing to other pastors and churches as well as the fine folk at Westside Baptist Temple. 6.) We have made arrangements for our tracts to be translated into French with a translator in Madagascar. She has already completed “Am I Going to Heaven?” and we hope to print shortly. Please pray for her as she works on the other titles we have.

### **Conclusion**

In closing, if you would like to receive any of our tracts, please feel free to contact us. As always, you can download our free app on the Google Play Store and the Apple App store. Also, if you would like us to come to your church, please have your pastor contact me. Thank you SO much for your prayers and support. God bless,

Yours for the Kingdom,

*Mark T. Reno*



# The Gospel of Grace

## God's Word, the Bible, Tells Us 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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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. It is also available via email and our website. Free tract samples 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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