

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS INTERNATIONAL

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Gerald Christian Matatics, Founder & President

St. Jerome Study Center now open!

Winter 2006-2007

Dear Catholic Friend,

As you may know from my previous letter on this subject, everywhere I spoke around the country and the world, I consistently heard one complaint from parents and others: "Why is there no place where people – whether college age or older – can study the authentic Catholic Faith, taught from a thoroughly traditional perspective that rigorously rejects all the novelties and errors that have invaded the Catholic establishment since the death of Pope Pius XII in 1958?"

Knowledge is crucial to victory – in fact, to our very salvation in these troubled times. As Pope St. Pius X, quoting his predecessor Benedict XIV, solemnly stated, "We declare that a great number of those who are condemned to eternal punishment suffer that everlasting calamity because of ignorance of those mysteries of faith which must be known and believed in order to be numbered among the elect" (*Acerbo Nimis*, paragraph 2). As God Himself put it, "My people perish for lack of knowledge" (Osee [Hosea] 4:6).

Existing institutions are inadequate to the current crisis – the gravest crisis ever in the 2000-year history of the Church. Both "conservative" and even "traditional" Catholic schools have made accommodations to and compromises with modernism – some obvious, some subtle – in such areas as Biblical studies, theology, philosophy, science, liturgy, ecumenism, and ecclesiology.

People told me they'd approached me for two reasons. First, in addition to my full-time career as a Catholic apologist, I've served, on and off over twenty years, as a professor of Sacred Scripture, theology, apologetics, and related disciplines (patristics [the systematic study of the Church Fathers and their writings], Latin, Greek, etc.) at various Catholic colleges, universities, and graduate schools (including a traditional Catholic seminary for three years).

Secondly, they noted sadly (what I, too, lament) that of all the former Protestant ministers and theologians who had professedly converted to the Catholic Faith, I was the only one who had *completely* renounced the quasi-Protestant errors of "Novus Ordo Catholicism" as well.

In 2004 I began to raise funds to establish such a study center – not a full-fledged college (at least not initially) – where people could study with me – for a day, a weekend, a week, a month, a year,

or in a series of sessions spread over a lifetime – any topics of interest to them falling within my areas of competence.

I found more than one old house for sale for around \$150,000, just a block or two from my own home, in which I was willing to set up my entire personal library of 10,000+ volumes in Biblical studies, theology, apologetics, Church history and general history, patristics, philosophy, canon law, liturgy, languages, literature, political science and economics, the family, homeschooling, science, Freemasonry and secret societies, etc., as well as dozens of key periodicals.

The Center would have separate reading rooms for each major discipline: a Biblical studies room, a Church history room, and so forth, each with bookcases lining the walls, armchairs and reading lamps, and a desk. There would also be a conference room where seminar classes – whether for one person or for a small group – could be held and digitally recorded on CD, DVD, audio and videotape, and MP3, and a listening library with hundreds of talks by well-known Catholic speakers, as well as works of literature, on audio, video, CD, and DVD.

By May of 2005, after nearly a year of fundraising, we had raised several thousands of dollars: a promising start, but not enough (yet) to purchase one of these houses outright (a necessity, I'm afraid: given the paltry income I make as a full-time traditional Catholic apologist – in contrast to my "Novus Ordo" counterparts who've become wealthy promoting the modernist Establishment – I certainly couldn't qualify for a second mortgage on a second home to house the Center. My wife and I have ten children – two in college themselves – no savings account, no health insurance, and it's all we can do just to pay the mortgage we have on our own home plus our other monthly bills.)

So many people were eager to begin their studies in the interim, however, that after much prayer I decided to use the funds we'd already raised to begin renting (for \$550 a month) a 2-bedroom apartment as a temporary, stop-gap solution to accommodate those who couldn't wait the additional time necessary (months? a year? two?) to raise the remaining funds to acquire a proper-sized home for the Center. I signed the lease May 25th, 2005 and, despite a summer jam-packed with many lengthy trips and other pressing projects, in between these I worked round the clock, emptying and moving 35 huge bookcases from my house, buying and assembling 37 additional ones, and then transporting as much of my 15,000+ volume library as these 72 bookcases could hold. All this took *hundreds* of hours of grueling labor with no respite.

The result might be the most exciting, important development in the sixteen-year history of Biblical Foundations International: the St. Jerome Study Center is now open, housed temporarily in said apartment. The library fills both bedrooms (20 bookcases, arranged maze-like, in the larger bedroom, and 13, similarly arranged, in the smaller bedroom), the entire living room (17 bookcases) and dining room (13 bookcases), all the wall space in the kitchen (7 bookcases), even both walls of the hallway to the bathroom (2 bookcases)!

Several people have already come to the Center, and more are on the way. And though I'm willing to continue renting the apartment for now, it is far too small for even our present purposes. Besides the abovementioned bookcases, which take up nearly all the floor space, as furniture the Center currently only has (because it only has room for) a 3-seat couch, a 2-seat smaller couch, and one armchair, all in the living room. The bedrooms, due to the arrangement of bookcases, have no room for any other furniture – not even a chair to sit in!

A modest 4-bedroom house, available for less than \$150,000, would provide more space for the rest of my books (many are still at my house), and enable the bookcases currently at the Center to be rearranged to allow room for at least one armchair and writing desk per bedroom. (We've currently room for only one tiny desk – serving as a computer workstation in the dining room – in the entire apartment.)

The additional two bedrooms would enable us to accommodate several hundreds of additional books that people have already donated to the Center but for which we presently have no place for the bookcases to hold them. The larger dining room a house has would give us the needed space for a table for a small class to sit at. (Right now there's *no table anywhere* in the Center: no room!) A larger living room would enable a dozen or so folding chairs to be set up for larger groups. Most importantly, acquiring a house provides a permanent solution for this much-needed Center, rather than the present one, which will END abruptly once our current funds are paid out for rent.

In the meantime, I don't believe in standing still or in wasting time waiting, so I've continued working with what I've got. A list of courses available at the Center is on the back of the enclosed response form. The information in these various disciplines is crucial to decoding the current crisis, and to spiritually surviving the great apostasy with our Catholic Faith intact. This educational enterprise couldn't be timelier: the deception that pervades the Vatican II church deepens daily, and the need for this Center, with the mission-critical data it can deliver, is now more urgent than ever.

I hope you'll pray with me that we can quickly raise the funds necessary to obtain the larger (and permanent) home for the Center that has always been our goal. I know many of you have already been generous, but if you can make an additional donation to help us out – by cash, check or money order (payable to "Biblical Foundations International," please, **NOT** to "St. Jerome Study Center"), or using your Visa or MasterCard – either with a one-time gift or a monthly amount, I'd deeply appreciate it, and may God richly reward you.

I've been blessed with some faithful and generous donors over the years. But the donations I receive are typically \$100 or less: those over \$100 are the exception rather than the rule. At that rate it would take a thousand responses of that size, and thus a counterproductively long time, to secure the Center. This would let crucial educational opportunities slip past too many people who need them now. I'm therefore offering an incentive for people who have the means to do so to make much larger donations than I generally receive:

1) Everyone donating \$1000 can come to the Center for a week, at a time of your choosing, to be personally tutored by me in whatever topics interest you. (23 people have already responded at this level!)

2) If you can give \$5000, I'll fly to YOUR town and give your family and friends a customized one-week "crash course" in any subjects you wish. (5 donors have already responded at this level!)

3) To those of you giving \$10,000 I'll give a LIFETIME PASS to the Center, allowing you and all your loved ones to come as often as you wish over the years and receive personalized instruction from me absolutely FREE. (3 donors have already responded at this level!)

Of course, if you can only afford to give \$500, \$100, or less, any size donation – by check, money order, Visa or MasterCard – is most welcome, and will help us achieve our goal. As always, my family and I remember all our donors and all their loved ones, both living and deceased, in our daily rosaries.

I have entrusted this Study Center to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, placing it as well under the patronage of not only St. Jerome but ALL the great Fathers and Doctors whose works will be carefully studied at the Center: St. Athanasius, St. Augustine, St. Leo the Great, St. Gregory the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St. Anselm, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Francis de Sales, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, St. Louis de Montfort, Pope St. Pius X, and many others.

I pray that God will use the St. Jerome Study Center to raise up a regiment of intellectual warriors who, equipped with a thoroughly Catholic grasp of the issues, will be competent to carry out, under the standard of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the great task of Catholicizing our culture in obedience to Christ the King, before it's too late.

Please RUSH me the enclosed response form, along with your check or money order payable to "Gerry Matatics" or "Biblical Foundations," or your Visa or MasterCard number with expiration date and amount you wish to donate, TODAY. And please say a prayer daily for a supernaturally swift acquisition of a permanent home for the St. Jerome Study Center. Thank you, and may God reward you with the wisdom and the courage to face the challenges of the coming days!

In the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Gerry Matatics

NOTE: This entire letter, along with the response form, is available on my website at www.gerrymatatics.org, should you wish to print it out and pass it on (or forward it by e-mail) to someone.

DATE (*important!*): _____

RESPONSE FORM

Yes, Gerry:

I want to help you acquire a permanent home for the **St. Jerome Study Center** so that God may raise up an army of those intellectually equipped to articulate and defend the truth of Sacred Scripture and the traditional Catholic Faith, and to ably refute the counterfeit Catholicism that has hijacked so much of the infrastructures of the Church in our day.

(Please print all of the following legibly)

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone numbers: Day: (_____) _____ - _____ Eve: (_____) _____ - _____

(If you have them) Fax: (_____) _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

____ I've enclosed a check / money order in the amount of:
____\$10,000____\$5000 ____\$1000 ____\$500 ____\$250 ____\$100 ____other amount (specify: _____)
(Note: Foreign donors must pay in US funds drawn on US bank.)

or

____ Please charge my **Visa** or **MasterCard** (no AmEx or Discover, please) in the amount of:
____\$10,000____\$5000 ____\$1000 ____\$500 ____\$250 ____\$100 ____other amount (specify: _____)

Credit card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Choose one:

____ 1. What I've enclosed is a one-time donation.

____ 2. What I've enclosed is the first payment of a monthly amount I'd like to donate.

If I indicated option #2 and I enclosed a check or money order, I'll send one in this amount each month; if I'm paying by Visa or MasterCard, I authorize you to charge my card in this amount at the end of each month.

Ways to send us your helpful and much-appreciated donation:

1. If paying by Visa or MasterCard, please do one of the following:

a) **Fax** this completed form to: (570) 969-1725, or

b) **Call** us at (570) 969-1724 and leave this information on our voicemail, or

c) **Scan and e-mail** this form as an attachment to: gmatatics@aol.com, or

d) **Mail** this form to: Biblical Foundations International, PO Box 569, Dunmore PA 18512 USA.

2. If paying by check or money order (payable either to "Gerry Matatics" or to "Biblical Foundations International"), please mail it, along with this form, to: Biblical Foundations International, PO Box 569, Dunmore PA 18512 USA. **(Again, foreign donors must pay in US funds drawn on a US bank.)**

Thank you and may God reward you for your generous and sacrificial charity!