

Biographical Profile for Steve & Janet Ray

Name: Stephen & Janet Ray

AKA: [“Jerusalem Jones”](#)

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Bio: Stephen K. Ray, named after the first martyr of the Church, was born on December 29, 1954 to parents who had just become Christians through a Billy Graham Crusade. They were a strong Fundamentalist Baptist family and Steve was dedicated to Jesus in the local Baptist Church. At four years old he “asked Jesus into his heart” and was “born again” according to Baptist tradition. Steve often did street evangelism, taught the Bible in various churches, and conducted a successful series of classes in his home and various Protestant churches between extended trips abroad. Janet is the first known Catholic in her family in over 400 years.

In 1976 Stephen married Janet Ray who came from a long line of Protestants—in fact, she is she is the first Catholic in her family in over 400 years. Her ancestry can be traced to pilgrims who arrived in American from England on the Mayflower and Hussite Protestants from Moravia who joined the Protestant Reformation in the 1600s. With two small children in tow, they moved to Europe for one year where they traveled extensively researching their Reformation roots in Switzerland, Germany, England and other countries. They were also able to study for six months at [L’Abri](#) in Switzerland with the noted theologian and Evangelical thinker Francis Schaeffer. On subsequent trips to Europe Steve and Janet visited the communist countries and even smuggled Bibles and medicine to Christians behind the Iron Curtain.

In 1975 Stephen started a business of his own and with an investment of only \$5.00 and homemade business cards. He started a building services company named Foremost Maintenance, which was incorporated as Distinctive Maintenance, Inc. 1987. Over the

years the business grew rapidly to about 800 employees. Steve has since sold the company to do what he really loves. Steve helped co-found the [Affiliated Building Service Contractors Association](#) and served on the Board of Directors. In 1996 Tom Monaghan Tom Monahan of Dominos Pizza invited Steve to join the organization of CEOs named [Legatus](#). Steve serves on the Board of Directors for the [Ave Maria Foundation](#) and as a regent of [Ave Maria University](#) in Naples Florida. Steve now spends most of his time writing, producing documentary videos, traveling, teaching, and service to the Catholic Church.

Steve also serves as a research assistant for Scott Hahn's [St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology](#), and advisor for [Catholic Scripture Study International](#) (CSS), [Catholics United for the Faith](#), and [Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Ministries](#).

After being a Fundamentalist Protestant of thirty-nine years and members of various Fundamentalist and Evangelical Protestant churches, Steve Ray and his wife Janet converted to the Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday, 1994. Prior to 1994 neither of them had—out of principle—ever set foot in a Catholic Church. Steve and Janet now attend [Christ the King Parish](#) in Ann Arbor Michigan. Steve taught a very successful Catholic Bible Study before the video series demanded his time.

Janet taught their children at home. Their oldest daughter **Cindy** received her Masters in Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2001 after graduating *summa cum laude* with a double major in theology, philosophy and a minor in business. She has now graduated from Catholic University of America and is completing her dissertation for her PhD in Philosophy. She married **Benjamin Brown**, another *summa cum laude* graduate of Steubenville on January 12, 2002 who is now a professor with his PhD in theology. She now has four children.

Steve's son **Jesse** graduated *summa cum laude* from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in business and now has his Masters Degree in Finance. He married Anna Bolster in 2001 and the father of four children. He has his own financial enterprise and assists Steve. **Charlotte** graduated with honors from Eastern Michigan University and **Emily** graduated with honors from Fr. Gabriel Richard Catholic High School.

On January 9, 2003 two grandchildren born on the *same night!* Dominic Joseph was born to Ben and Cindy at 8 PM and Joshua Thomas was born 2 minutes after midnight. Janet was in Washington DC with Cindy and Ben, while I was in Ann Arbor with Jesse and Anna. For photos, visit my son's [Ray Clan](#) site. We now have eight grandchildren.

In 1997 Steve's first book, with an Imprimatur from [Bishop Carl Mengeling](#), was published by [Ignatius Press](#) in San Francisco, California. The conversion story is entitled [Crossing the Tiber: Evangelical Protestants Discover the Historic Church](#) in which Steve details the intellectual and spiritual journey from Fundamentalism to the Catholic Church. The book also contains extended studies of Baptism and the Eucharist from the Scriptures and the Fathers. Within less than a year the book had become a Catholic best seller. Ignatius Press released another bestseller by Steve in 1999 entitled [Upon this Rock: St.](#)

[*Peter and the Primacy of Rome in the Scriptures and Early Church*](#). Ignatius Press is publishing Steve's third book in October of 2002 entitled [*St. John's Gospel: A Bible Study Guide and Commentary*](#). He also wrote the [*Papacy Learning Guide*](#) and the [*We Have A Pope*](#) for [Catholic Answers](#). *Faith for Beginners* will be released in late 2006. He is also speaking at conferences and seminars and his numerous [tape sets](#).

Since becoming Catholics, Steve and Janet have traveled extensively in the Holy Land, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Greece, and Italy researching their new Catholic faith and gathering material for their books and video series. They have also taken four speaking tours of the Philippines and an adventure in China. They have visited Rome many times and Steve has spoke at the [North American College](#) in Rome and the Legionaries' [Regina Apostolorum University](#). In the Jubilee Year (2000) the family went on a five-week pilgrimage to Israel, Egypt, Switzerland, and Rome studying, touring, and preparing to film the first of ten documentary movies (under the auspices of Ignatius Press and Steve's new company, [St. Josephs Productions](#) and in conjunction with [Skyline Video](#)). Steve and Janet had two personal meetings with John Paul II and [appeared on Fox News](#) four times during his funeral.

Steve writes Bible Studies for [Catholic Scripture Study International](#), the fastest growing Catholic Bible Study program in the country.

Steve is a [Knight of the Holy Sepulchre](#) and Janet is a Lady. They received their shell in Jerusalem.

Besides enjoying their children and grandchildren at home and serving their local parish, Steve and Janet now spend most of their time researching, writing, teaching Catholic Bible studies, lecturing, creating documentaries, leading pilgrimages to biblical lands, and sharing the joy of discovering the Catholic Church. Steve especially loves apologetics, Bible study, and explaining the Catholic faith. Steve has conducted several highly successful conferences in conjunction with other Catholic converts. A list of his prepared talks can be viewed at [Talks](#).

Steve is a regular guest on [Catholic Answers Live](#) and has appeared on a wide range of radio and television programs including several guest appearances on [The Journey Home](#) on [EWTN](#), [Living His Life Abundantly](#) and [Life on the Rock](#). Steve has also been interviewed several times on [Fox Cable Network News](#) and [Fox & Friends](#) and done radio interviews with [Ave Maria Radio](#), [Relevant Radio](#) and the [G. Gordon Liddy](#) show.

But the majority of their time is now spent leading pilgrimages through the biblical lands ([www.SteveGoes.com](#)) and writing, directing, and producing the award winning, 10-video series "[The Footprints of God: the Story of Salvation from Abraham to Augustine](#)" on location in the Holy Land and surrounding countries. [CREDO](#) wrote an article on the series entitled [Jerusalem Jones](#). The first video, [Peter, Keeper of the Keys](#) was released in November 2001 by Ignatius Press and [Mary, Mother of God](#) was released in June 2002 ([www.ignatius.com](#)). [Over Holy Ground](#) was released in January 2002. Subsequently, [Moses: Signs, Sacraments and Salvation](#), and [Jesus: the Word Became Flesh](#) have been

released on video and DVD. [*Paul, Contending for the Faith*](#) was released in 2004. [*David & Solomon: Expanding the Kingdom*](#) was released in March 2006. [*Apostolic Fathers: Handing on the Faith*](#) was released in 2007. [Brochures/Subscription forms](#) and [Promo video](#) (viewable on the web) can be found on [Steve's website](#).

Steve and Janet are both certified guides for the Holy Land and now lead groups on pilgrimages to Israel and other biblical land through their company [Footprints of God Pilgrimages](#).

For a list of tapes sets and books, for Steve's [schedule](#) and other info and writings, visit his website at <http://www.catholic-convert.com>.

Affiliations: Contributing Writer, [Envoy Magazine](#); [The Catholic Answer](#), [This Rock Magazine](#); speaker at Call to Holiness, speaker at the [St. Joseph Family Conferences](#), Steubenville's [Defending the Faith Summer](#) conferences, [Fullness of Truth](#) conferences, [Catholic Scripture Study International](#), and he's a regular on [Catholic Answers Live](#), [Relevant Radio](#), [Ave Maria Radio](#), and many more.

Board of Regents for [Ave Maria University](#).

Board Member of [Ave Maria Foundation](#)

[Legatus](#) Member since 1999

Board of Advisors for [Catholics United for the Faith](#)

Board of Advisors for [Catholic Scripture Study International](#)

Board of Advisors for [Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Ministries](#)

Research Fellow for [St. Paul Center](#)

Knight and Lady of the [Knights of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

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