

## THE WANDERER

### New *Footprints Of God* Video Released

SAN FRANCISCO - “Mary, Mother of God,” the second video of the acclaimed 10-part *Footprints of God: The Story of Salvation From Abraham to Augustine* series, has just been released by Ignatius Press. Unlike any video or film series ever made, *Footprints of God* explores more than 2,000 years of Jewish and Christian history to explain Christian teaching. There has never been a production like it, and the entire series has the imprimatur of the Catholic Church.

The 78-minute *Mary, Mother of God* video blends dynamic elements of a travel documentary, biography, Bible study, apologetics, and Church history course as it steps back in time to explore the person and life of the Blessed Virgin and her indispensable role in salvation history. Written, directed, and hosted by popular Catholic author and apologist Steve Ray, the video invites viewers to travel the dusty paths of Israel and Egypt that took Mary to the heart of the salvation story, and experience on-location the events in Mary’s life. *Mary, Mother of God* helps viewers clearly understand such teachings as the Immaculate Conception, her role as intercessor, her Assumption into Heaven - and helps them to know and love her Son.

*Footprints* is filmed entirely on location in Israel, Egypt, Rome, Greece, Turkey, and Iraq. The series is an authentic adventure that brings the Bible and theology to life - and covers the entire saga of salvation unlike anything else.

Ray came upon the idea for the series practically by accident. “I had just finished my book called *Upon This Rock* [Ignatius, 1991], which is about St. Peter and the papacy, when I thought we needed a first-rate film presentation on Peter. Then my wife, Janet, said, ‘Why stop there—why not do something on the whole saga of salvation?’ Then I thought of making it an exciting Indiana Jones kind of production, with safari gear, maps, yet with an intense Bible-study emphasis—as well as a travelogue and thorough Catholic catechesis laced with adventure and historical locale.”

The *Footprints* series is designed to be fast-paced and interesting to a wide audience, from elementary school children to teenagers, college students and adults—even entire families, whether Catholic or not. “This series is perfect for anyone who wants to learn the faith, whether in an RCIA class, school or at home;” says Ray. Each of the 10 videos comes with a complete study guide accompanying the film.

Why else did Ray want to do this series? “I want to do these films as a legacy for our kids. We need to keep our kids Catholic, and work to preserve the faith;” he says.

*Peter, Keeper of the Keys*, the first of the *Footprints* video series released in October 2001, follows Peter from Galilee to Jerusalem to Rome. It discusses why a simple fisherman was chosen by Jesus to be the first Keeper of the Keys, and why he is called the Rock, the Fisher of Men, and Head of the Church. Viewers discover answers about the infallibility of the Pope, papal succession, and truths of Catholic teaching—all in an exciting and entertaining format that provides a clear exposition of Catholic doctrine on the papacy and priesthood.

*Footprints of God* is estimated to take about five years to complete, and in addition to the two productions already released, will include eight additional titles on Abraham, Moses, Kings David and Solomon, prophets Elijah and Elisha, Jesus, Paul, the Apostolic Fathers (Clement,

Ignatius, Polycarp, and Justin), and Doctors of the Church (Augustine, Ambrose, Chrysostom, and Athanasius).

Ignatius Press estimates that the entire 10-video production, when complete, will cost in excess of \$2 million.

Throughout the *Footprints* series, Ray poses tough questions that have been put forth for centuries, then provides answers that help Catholics and other Christians truly understand and explain their faith. Key people, places of Scripture, and Church history come to life in a fresh and powerful way.

“The series is intended to be as intriguing to Protestants as it is to Catholics,” says Ray, “or anyone who wants to understand Catholic faith. It’s not-in-your-face Catholicism;’ but rather, an adventure discovery into what Catholics believe and why.”

Ray is already a best-selling author whose books include *Crossing the Tiber* (Ignatius 1997), which documents his conversion to Catholicism from the Baptist tradition; and *Upon This Rock*, a definitive study on the primacy of Peter. He likewise writes for several Catholic magazines, is a frequent guest on national Catholic TV and radio programs, and is a widely popular speaker and defender of the Catholic faith.

(San Francisco-based Ignatius Press, founded in 1978 and currently the largest Catholic publisher in the United States, is dedicated to publishing and distributing information on the Catholic faith. Ignatius publishes over 40 books each year, and its author roster includes some of the foremost names in the Catholic Church. Ignatius is also the publisher of *Catholic World Report* and *Homelitic & Pastoral Review*. Ordering information can be found at: [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com), or by calling: 800-651-1531.)