

## **EWTN Timeline**

### **The Beginning of EWTN**

#### **March 1978**

Mother Angelica is traveling the country speaking and calling people to holiness. In March 1978, during a seven-day visit to Chicago, Mother visits a Baptist-run television station. When Mother sees how many people can be reached by the cameras, video equipment and a few people operating out of a tiny television studio, she walks out and famously exclaims: "Lord, I gotta have one of these!"

During that trip, Mother gives a talk attended by Bill Steltemeier, a senior partner at a Nashville law firm, an association that will later become vital to the future Network.

#### **May to August 1978**

Mother Angelica produces her first television show, "Our Hermitage," at a local television studio. She asks a close friend to hand-deliver the tape to the Christian Broadcast Network (CBN). They request 60 episodes. To cover the cost, Mother returns to the speaking circuit.

#### **Oct. 16, 1978**

Pope John Paul II is elected. At this point, Mother has no idea how closely her mission and message will intertwine with the new Pope's. This Pope, who will travel the globe, will have a television network broadcasting his every trip to the world.

#### **November 1978**

When Mother Angelica learns that the station where she is filming her second series plans to air a blasphemous movie, she tells the station manager she will pull out if he goes through with his plans. He says her television work will come to an end without his facilities. Mother says she needs only God and will build her own studio. He says she can't do it. She says, "You just watch me!" Armed with \$200 – and 12 cloistered nuns with no television experience – Mother asks the construction crew building her monastery to make the garage 10 feet longer and 12 feet wider to accommodate a television studio.

#### **1979**

The Catholic Family Missionary Alliance begins collecting donations for a production van that will film Mother's speaking engagements and her studio productions at the monastery even as Mother begins soliciting donations and purchasing equipment for the television studio.

#### **September 1980**

Mother Angelica, who is hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, now orders a \$350,000 satellite dish and more than \$700,000 in satellite transmission equipment. A wealthy benefactor gives her the \$250,000 letter of credit she needs to apply for a Federal Communications Commission License to broadcast. Operating expenses will exceed \$1.5 million a year – yet Mother presses on.

#### **Inset box: The Theology of Risk**

**"You want to do something for the Lord ... do it. Whatever you feel needs to be done, even though you're shaking in your boots, you're scared to death – take the first step forward. The grace comes with that one step and you get the grace as you step. Being afraid is not a problem; it's doing nothing when you're afraid."**

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**January 27, 1981**

EWTN receives an FCC license and becomes the first Catholic satellite television station in the United States.

**March 8, 1981**

Just before the first satellite dish arrives, Sr. Regina has a vision in which she sees a black sky, a white satellite dish, and a flame emerging from the center. She hears God say, "No one will be able to extinguish this flame. This is my network, and it will glorify my Son." The dish arrives a few weeks later. A photograph taken while it was installed reproduces Sr. Regina's vision. Professional photographers cannot account for the red flame.

**Early 1981**

The board of Eternal Word Television Network is formed. It will be a civil corporation run by the laity. As chairman, Mother would have absolute veto power over any board action.

**May 22, 1981**

Cardinal Silvio Oddi, visiting from Rome, blesses EWTN facilities.

**June 26, 1981**

Mother Angelica receives papers from Rome granting her permission to carry out her television work after receiving verbal approval on May 25, 1981.

**Aug. 15, 1981**

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), the first Roman Catholic satellite cable network, begins transmitting four hours a day to 60,000 homes. The network will exist solely on viewer contributions. There will be no advertising, no fundraisers, and no toll-free donation lines. Mother tells a cable magazine in 1981: "I feel in my heart that if I am more concerned with their [viewers'] souls and their happiness, and their family life ... I think they will be inspired by God to give without me asking." The Network is also offered to cable operators free of charge.

**Early 1982**

EWTN signs a contract with Wold Communications in Los Angeles to access the Westar IV satellite. The agreement stipulates that no pornographic material can follow or precede EWTN's nightly feed.

**March 1982**

Mother is broke. Unless \$350,000 could be located quickly, the bank is going to take control of the Network. Telegrams are sent out to big donors and prayers renewed. By the end of the month, the needed money trickles in.

**June 14, 1982**

Mother signs a providential deal with RCA's Satcom IIIR, the cable industry's number one satellite, breaching the contract with Wold which, in turn, has breached its agreement by airing pornography in close proximity to EWTN's four-hour programming block. The move makes EWTN available to every cable system in the country, with a potential audience of 20 million households. Mother feels sure this is where God wants the Network to be.

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**August 1982**

It is a classic Catch-22. The Network needs a more expensive satellite to build an audience, but the donor base isn't expanding sufficiently to support the exorbitant overhead. Donations are so scant that Deacon Bill Steltemeier takes out a \$66,000 personal loan to pay part of the monthly transponder bill.

**November 12, 1982**

Mother Angelica presents Pope John Paul II with a model of EWTN's first satellite dish. "I have heard about you," the Pope said. "You do good work." A photo of that meeting and the Pope's words is of great help to the fledgling network.

**Early December 1982**

Deacon Bill Steltemeier takes out a \$132,000 loan against his savings to pay a delinquent transponder bill. Harry John of the De Rance Foundation loans Mother \$130,000 interest-free from his personal reserve. This drama plays out every 30 days for years to come.

**June 1, 1983**

Bill Steltemeier meets with Wold lawyers who demand \$1.4 million for breach of contract. Mother and another nun decide to skip the meeting and pray. Wold settles for \$250,000 over a two-and-a-half year period.

**August 15, 1983**

"Mother Angelica Live" debuts on EWTN's second anniversary and Mother decides to do live show pilots on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Thanks to her rising profile, the guest roster for the shows includes Pat Boone, Chuck Colson, Betty Hutton, and others. By late 1983, 95 cable systems in 31 states are carrying EWTN.

**Sept. 7, 1983**

Mother Angelica and the nuns make a recording in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Oct. 17, 1983**

Money dries up again and Mother asks viewers to donate money for the first time. Mother isn't sure if she is going to continue the live program, but a phone call from a young boy who is saved from suicide convinces her otherwise.

**Dec. 7, 1983**

Mother Angelica tells an EWTN carpenter to tie white rags on all the trees that need to be cut down where she envisions building a new studio. People begin to ask questions, including some visiting bishops. Mother Angelica says she wants the Lord to look down and see she needs a larger studio. One bishop asks if it is working, and she replies, "It doesn't hurt to remind Him." A friend come by and asks about the rags and then donates \$50,000 to start the building.

**July 14, 1984**

Out of money, Mother spends six nights begging on the air. Seven employees and six nuns man the phones. A crisis is averted.

**November 7, 1984**

The Grace Foundation calls in a \$650,000 loan with interest.

**November 9, 1984**

A retired lawyer and his wife agree to advance Mother \$700,000 to pay off the loan. Says Mother: "These are the kinds of things, honey, that prove God's Providence. We never know where the next penny's coming from. That's what I'm trying to get through people's heads: This is an act of God."

**1984**

In the midst of all this, Mother's reputation and popularity are growing. "Mother Angelica Live" is the only religious program nominated for an Award for Cable Excellence from the cable industry. In December, she wins a Gabriel Personal Achievement Award from Catholic broadcasters and communicators and Dick Clark and Ed McMahon give her a Golden Bloop Award.

**Early 1985**

EWTN is carried on more than 220 cable systems and can be seen in nearly 2 million homes making it the fastest-growing cable network in the country.

**April 14, 1985**

The Network dedicates a brand new 6,500 square-foot studio. The new studio means that EWTN can now generate up to 50 percent of its own programming.

**June 19, 1985**

Cardinal Silvio Oddi tells Mother that Pope John Paul II told him that "EWTN is the key to restoring the Roman Catholic Church in America." True or not, it influences Mother's thinking, inspiring her to use the network to buttress "the Catholicism of the simple, the poor, and the elderly."

**Oct. 1985**

Morley Safer of CBS' "60 Minutes" airs a profile of Mother Angelica and EWTN.

**December 1985**

Viewer donations in 1985 exceed expenditures by more than \$1.5 million. Although EWTN carries a debt of \$3.2 million, growth is not hampered. In less than one year, EWTN expands programming from four to six hours.

**October 1986**

EWTN loses its satellite and transponder lease for 1987. Competitors are only interested in 24-hour cable networks. EWTN either has to pursue a six-hour deal on a secondary satellite or expand programming to 24 hours a day on Galaxy III, a new satellite, which few cable systems would consider. Whatever choice she makes, the network will lose all its affiliates and have to start from zero. Employees tell Mother to go for it. Mother takes the leap to 24-hour programming.

Mother signs with Galaxy III. Shortly thereafter, a lineup of cable networks buys out the satellite providing reception dishes to the nation's 7,000 cable systems. Overnight, it becomes the most popular satellite in cable television.

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During the preparations for the 24-hour launch, the Vatican announces a 10-day papal visit to America in the fall of 1987. "[T]he best marketing tool a Catholic network could have comes to town," says an executive.

### **May 1987**

Mother births a pair of active religious orders to protect EWTN's mission in perpetuity and to continue her fervent devotion to the Eucharist. They are the Order of the Eternal Word, a community of priests and brothers, and the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word, an active extension of Mother's contemplative order, headed by Sister Gabriel Long.

### **Sept. 1987**

EWTN airs complete and unedited live coverage of a papal visit to the U.S., a feat no other U.S. broadcaster has attempted to do.

### **Sept. 1, 1987**

As EWTN programming expands to 24-hours-a-day, the Network reaches 10 million subscribers.

### **September 1987**

The network creates new series and airs documentaries and specials to fill this quantum increase in transmission time. This leads to a new emphasis on live programming, including Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States, after which EWTN picks up 12 new cable affiliates. EWTN now reaches more than 20 million homes.

As the Network begins to cover papal visits and Church events, EWTN develops an on-going commitment to cover the Vatican. EWTN begins to cover the installation of bishops and their national meetings, the Pope's extensive global travels, beatifications and canonizations, funerals of princes of the Church and saints in the making such as Mother Teresa, as well as other holy day events from major shrines.

### **1988**

Mother's religious orders are thriving with nine members of the Order of the Eternal Word, six Sister Servants, and 15 contemplative Poor Clares.

### **Aug. 2, 1988**

EWTN takes delivery of its first traveling production vehicle, Gabriel I. With \$600,000 worth of equipment aboard, EWTN can broadcast live events from anywhere in the country.

### **Aug. 15, 1988**

EWTN begins providing live Masses of Holy Days from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This programming is made possible by a grant from the Knights of Columbus.

### **September 1988**

EWTN acquires uplink truck to beam on-location programs back to Birmingham via satellite, sending the signal to the satellite for live coverage.

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**Fall 1988**

In prayer, Mother hears the call to begin a shortwave radio network.

**1989****January 28, 1989**

Mother Angelica, Bill Steltemeier and two nuns arrive in Rome armed with only Mother's inspiration for a shortwave radio network.

**Jan. 31, 1989**

Seeking a blessing on the new shortwave radio venture, Mother Angelica, Deacon Bill and Sisters Michael and Regina attend the Pope's private Mass. He sees her at the end of the receiving line and says, "Mother Angelica, you are a strong woman." She tells His Holiness of her plans to beam radio broadcasts into Russia and the Eastern Bloc countries. He is ecstatic.

A little over a month later, Mother attends the Pope's Wednesday General Audience. When the Holy Father passes near where she is standing with her Sisters, he stops, holds her face in his hands and says, twice: *"Mother Angelica, La Grande Chief!"*

**Feb. 1, 1989**

Mother meets with Dutch Catholic millionaire and philanthropist Piet Derksen who wires \$2 million to EWTN for the establishment of WEWN, the world's largest privately-owned international short wave radio station.

To minister to the growing Hispanic Catholic community, EWTN allocates three significant blocks of time to Hispanic programming.

**April 1989**

EWTN purchases a villa an hour north of Rome to house the radio equipment, visiting clergy, members of the Order of the Eternal Word studying for the priesthood, and a cloister for the Sisters. Derksen commits more money and Aid to the Church in Need donates \$600,000 of equipment and \$400,000 in funds, but Mother has no license or permission to build.

**September 1989**

Mother begins work on a parallel shortwave project based in the U.S. She calls New Orleans Real Estate Developer Joseph Canizaro and asks him what she can pray for to get him to give her \$1 million. He tells her if he sells the Crown Plaza Hotel for enough money, he'll give her a million dollars.

**1990**

Canizaro's hotel does not sell, but he tells her that thanks to her he received a court settlement with an oil company over a plot of polluted land which netted him \$35 million versus the expected \$15 million.

**Feb. 15, 1990**

Canizaro and Archbishop Phillip Hannan of New Orleans hand-deliver a million-dollar check to Mother. It is the financial beginning of the U.S. shortwave network.

**Feb. 22, 1990**

Mother leaves a mall and an unknown assailant thrusts her to the sidewalk shattering her wrist. She never gains full mobility of that wrist.

**May 1990**

In scouting for a parcel of land, Mother has a vision of St. Michael and decides to buy a rocky parcel of land which others felt was completely unsuitable for her U.S. shortwave radio station. Only one year earlier, Mother had felt St. Michael's sword touch her shoulder and she heard the words, "I will ever be at your side, and we will fight together." Mother purchases the land in mid-June.

EWTN provides live coverage of the Papal visit to Mexico, an event of special interest to the Network's Hispanic viewers.

**November 1990**

EWTN, with the help of the Military Archdiocese, produces the American bishops' messages of encouragement to the U.S. troops and their families during the Gulf War, which air on EWTN and in Saudi Arabia.

**1991**

**February 1991**

EWTN begins broadcasting live daily Masses during Lent from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, initially as encouragement for the families of soldiers serving in the Gulf War. With the conclusion of Lent, viewers let EWTN know that they would like the Daily Mass to continue. EWTN purchases unobtrusive, state-of-the-art robotic cameras for the Monastery to preserve the sense of the sacred.

**Aug. 15, 1991**

EWTN celebrates its 10th Anniversary and now reaches 22 million homes.

**1992**

**May 5, 1992**

Mother Angelica and Sister Gabriel decide that the Sister Servants should build their own retreat house in Birmingham and establish a separate community there. Today, the order offers retreats led by EWTN personalities and provides lodging to visitors, but has no formal tie with Mother or her cloistered order.

**Dec. 28, 1992**

Mother launches WEWN (Eternal Word Network), the world's largest privately owned shortwave radio facility to a potential worldwide listening audience of 600 million.

**Dec. 31, 1992**

More than 6 million new homes are added during the year; increasing EWTN's reach to 31 million homes.

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## **1993**

### **April-May 1993**

Severe asthma, coughing and congestion lead Mother to begin a two-week hospital stay on May 5. During the hospital stay, the severity of Mother's cough shatters a vertebra in her spine, damaging a nerve to her right leg and causing her excruciating pain. She now wears a new back and leg brace and can only walk with crutches.

### **June 1993**

With the anticipation of the new "Catechism of the Catholic Church," a production crew travels to Vienna for interviews with the Editor, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn. EWTN then launches "Pillars of Faith," a live, call-in program explaining the new *Catechism*.

### **August 1993**

EWTN provides live coverage of World Youth Day '93 from Denver, Colorado to 32 million homes. WYD coverage marks the debut of a new producer, Michael Warsaw, who will one day become EWTN's President and CEO. Coverage marks a turning point for EWTN, which picks up more than 200 new cable affiliates, reaching 2 million new households in the U.S. and 2 million more abroad.

### **December 24, 1993**

Mother and her nuns return to their traditional habits. In her next television show, Mother tells her audience that the nuns are wearing the old habit as a witness to the Lord, to each other and to obedience to the Church. She hopes to influence other sisters to do the same.

## **1994**

In addition to adopting the traditional habit, Mother institutes previously abandoned cloister practices such as the stating of faults, strict silence, prostration during the Consecration at Mass, and more. Mother herself begins to spend three hours a day in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

## **1995**

### **June 7, 1995**

EWTN announces that the Intelsat satellite will carry EWTN to 42 countries in Europe, Africa, and Central and South America.

### **Aug. 15, 1995**

EWTN launches its first international satellite service for Latin America. EWTN now reaches 40 million homes.

Mother begins search for land to build a new monastery to protect the sisters from what she believes is the coming chastisement and to keep the sisters from the "noise" surrounding EWTN.

### **Oct. 4 - 8, 1995**



EWTN provides unprecedented live coverage of Papal Visit '95 in both English and Spanish, on television, radio and the Internet as the Holy Father visits the United Nations, New York, New Jersey, and Baltimore. Television coverage of this event can be seen in more than 20 countries and territories representing over 100 million homes.

**October 12, 1995**

Mother sees a 200-acre piece of property in Hanceville, Alabama, one hour north of Birmingham. Three days later, she makes an offer. To keep hotels and restaurants away from the property, she will eventually acquire 403 acres. Mother wants a 13<sup>th</sup> Century monastery which can grow its own food, and raise its own livestock. She privately refers to this project as a “farm” with a “small farm chapel.”

**October 1995**

At the request of the Vatican, EWTN airs coverage of the “Celebration of the Family” from St. Peter's Square.

**Dec. 22, 1995**

Mother Angelica expands the Network's commitment to a large Hispanic audience with the addition of SAP – second audio programming – to EWTN's programming.

**1996**

**Jan. 25, 1996**

EWTN acquires the Catholic Resource Network (CRNET), a Catholic online service with the largest collection of Catholic documents on the web, to expand EWTN's media apostolate. EWTN's site will include news, Church documents, apologetics, program schedules, and more.

**Feb. 27, 1996**

EWTN launches a worldwide AM/FM radio service

**May 1, 1996**

Mother and two others visit the Vatican, where the Pope's personal secretary places them at the end of the Papal receiving line. Pope John Paul II says for all to hear: “Mother Angelica, strong woman, courageous woman, charismatic woman.” She hands him a portfolio, which shows the Network's current and future plans for international expansion. He playfully keeps asking where else EWTN will broadcast until Mother runs out of geography. He goes to leave, but returns, placing one hand on her head. Tracing the cross on her forehead with the other hand, he says: “Mother Angelica, weak in body, strong in spirit. Charismatic woman, charismatic woman.”

EWTN is added to the Dish Network.

**June 14, 1996**

EWTN launches a 24-hour Spanish language network on the most popular satellite in Latin America (PanAmSat) and now reaches Latin America and Spain.

**June 20, 1996**

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Mother receives a miraculous message while in Bogotá, Colombia from the Divine Child Jesus, Who tells her: *"Build Me a Temple, and I will help those who help you."* Mother later reads an inscription on St. Peter's in Rome that refers to the Church as "this temple." She realizes the Christ Child wants an elaborate temple built. This command radically changes Mother's plans, made six months earlier, to build a small farm chapel for Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville.

**Sept. 4, 1996**

"The World Over" debuts with Raymond Arroyo. The host and his guests examine current news from a Catholic perspective and take viewers' calls, emails, and faxes.

**Late September 1996**

"EWTN Religious Catalogue" program debuts.

**Dec. 8, 1996**

EWTN launches in the Pacific Rim, reaching Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and the Philippines. Reception by viewers and television operators is overwhelming

**1997**

EWTN completes a Technical Operations Center, which consists of broadcast video servers, digital tape archive and broadcast automation.

**Jan. 9, 1997**

"Life on the Rock" debuts with host Jeff Cavins. The host and his guests discuss being a young Christian today and take viewers' calls, emails, and faxes.

**Jan. 15, 1997**

EWTN launches its compressed digital satellite services on the Galaxy VI satellite.

**April 11, 1997**

EWTN announces the Internet broadcast of an AM/FM radio signal.

**May 1, 1997**

EWTN announces preparations for the Great Jubilee 2000.

**May 12, 1997**

EWTN also becomes the world's first broadcaster to use the Hewlett-Packard video file server. This makes it possible to simultaneously transmit seven independent feeds of distinct programming to clients around the globe.

**Sept. 5, 1997**

"The Journey Home" debuts with Marcus Grodi. The host and his guests discuss their personal conversion stories and how a specific Church teaching or experience influenced their decision to return to or be in communion with the Catholic Church. Grodi and his guests answer viewers' calls, emails, and faxes.

**September 1997**

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EWTN provides a live 35-hour salute to Mother Teresa and establishes an “In Memoriam” site on the Internet.

**Oct. 4-5, 1997**

EWTN provides live coverage of the Second World Meeting of the Holy Father with Families Oct. 4-5, 1997 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**1998**

**Jan. 21-25, 1998**

EWTN provides live coverage of Pope John Paul II’s visit to Cuba in both English and Spanish.

**Jan. 28, 1998**

While praying the rosary with Paola Albertini, an Italian mystic, Mother Angelica removes the braces from her legs and begins to walk. Three physicians independently examine her and find the healing is real.

**Sept. 2, 1998**

With only 14 Catholic frequencies in the U.S., Mother Angelica uses her live show to inspire the laity to establish even more Catholic AM/FM stations in their own communities. A businessman responds, and his station goes on the air in 1999. Today, EWTN boasts more than 138 independent AM/FM Catholic radio affiliates. Most remain viable due to the free programming EWTN offers.

**Sept. 3, 1998**

EWTN is granted a satellite radio service license by the Radio Authority of the United Kingdom, allowing EWTN to transmit its radio programming via satellite to the British Isles.

**Sept. 7, 1998**

“Nuestra Fe en Vivo,” EWTN's first live show in Spanish, debuts with Host Pepe Alonso.

**Nov. 24, 1998**

EWTN announces the launch of radio service on ASTRA in Europe.

**Dec. 8, 1998**

EWTN launches satellite television service to Africa and its direct-to-home satellite radio service for Europe on the Astra 1C satellite.

**1999**

**Jan. 21, 1999**

EWTN launches “EWTN Live” over the Internet.

**May 1-2, 1999**

EWTN airs live carriage and special programming in honor of the Beatification of Padre Pio.

**June 14, 1999**

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EWTN expands the availability of EWTN's Spanish television and radio services into the U.S. market. EWTN; La Red Global Católica, the 24-hour Spanish cable network; and Radio Católica Mundial, EWTN's Spanish radio network, are made available for carriage via cable systems and AM/FM radio stations. The Network feeds are also made available over the Internet.

#### **July 1999**

EWTN moves its domestic playout from the tape-based Master Control facility to the digital file servers in the Technical Operations Center.

#### **Oct. 15, 1999**

EWTN is granted a satellite television license by the Independent Television Commission of Great Britain allowing EWTN to deliver its programming directly to homes in Europe.

#### **Dec. 19, 1999**

The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama, is consecrated during a live broadcast.

#### **Dec. 24, 1999**

EWTN provides live coverage of Pope John Paul II opening the door to the Jubilee of the Year 2000. EWTN begins a 13-month tribute of special programming in honor of the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

#### **2000**

EWTN announces programming dedicated to the Jubilee Year.

#### **Feb. 14, 2000**

Mother receives a large white satin box with the Papal insignia and no note. She later receives a phone call telling her that it contains a gift from the Holy Father, "In appreciation for the work being done by EWTN around the world" and for the sisters' dedication to the Eucharist. Mother opens the box on live television the next night and discovers a monstrance that had been given to the Pope by people of Nowa Huta during his 1999 pilgrimage to Poland. Says Mother: "Somebody, somewhere has to say, 'You're doing a good job. Just keep on.' And that's what I think this says to all of us." A high-ranking Vatican official tells Raymond Arroyo, the gift was a "sign of the Pope's solidarity with Mother Angelica."

#### **March 20 -26, 2000**

EWTN airs special live coverage in both English and Spanish of the Pope's historic trip to the Holy Land.

#### **April 2000**

EWTN acquires new DVCPro field cameras and equipment for expanded field production.

#### **April 20, 2000**

EWTN launches its direct-to-home satellite service on the HotBird 4 European satellite.

#### **April 30, 2000**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina from Rome, Italy.

#### **May 8, 2000**

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EWTN airs live coverage of the Solemn Funeral Mass of John Cardinal O'Connor from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

EWTN airs live coverage from Fátima, Portugal of the beatification of Jacinta & Francisco Marta.

**July 3, 2000**

Mother has a near-death experience, which she shares with her audience on July 11. "In my heart, I really feel I died and came back," she said. "I have no more fear of death... Nothing matters but God, and how we are to express that love to the world."

**2001**

EWTN covers Pope John Paul II as he entrusts the Third Millennium to Mary, Mother of God.

**May 4-9, 2001**

EWTN covers the Pope's visit to Greece

**June 23-27, 2001**

EWTN covers the Pope's visit to Ukraine.

**Sept. 5, 2001**

Mother has a stroke which results in the paralysis of half her face. Said Mother: "I've never had in all my life such an awareness that God was choosing me to help people. This is to bring people to a new reality that suffering is brought by God to make us holy."

**Sept. 11, 2001**

EWTN responds to the Sept. 11 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and other terrorist attacks that day on U.S. soil with 24-hours of special programming.

**Dec. 5, 2001**

Mother recruits Father Mitch Pacwa as the permanent guest host for her show. He filled in whenever her health precluded her from appearing.

**Dec. 11, 2001**

With one eye patched as a result of her stroke, Mother Angelica misses a raised platform blocking her path at a Books-A-Million store and falls, slamming her face into the ground and cracking her left arm above the elbow. The next day, she is given the wrong plasma to thicken her blood, which contributes to her perilous condition. Mother has a vision of the souls in hell, but she is comforted by St. Michael the Archangel. She says: "We must suffer...to keep souls from going to hell. People don't understand what it means to go to hell."

**Dec. 24, 2001**

Mother has a lethal stroke and collapses. Her only chance of survival is immediate brain surgery. Medical personnel say if Mother does not die within the week, she will be a complete vegetable. A week later, she can not only move her legs, but feeling returns to the left side of her face even as her comprehension improves.

## **2002**

### **Jan. 25, 2002**

Mother Angelica returns home although she will experience seizures of varying intensities over the next two years. They sap her energy and confine her to bed for long periods of time. Her language skills deteriorate.

### **Feb. 13, 2002**

Mother tells Raymond Arroyo that the reason for her stroke is “purification.” She also says that just before the stroke “...Jesus came and testified to me...that I would suffer much...Suffer anguish for Jesus’ sake...”

### **June 16, 2002**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonization of Padre Pio in Rome.

### **July 2002**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonization of Juan Diego in Mexico.

### **July 31, 2002**

EWTN airs World Youth Day in Canada, July 18-28

### **September 2002**

EWTN works with Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R. to create the video, “September 11th: A Spiritual Response” on “Catholic Compass.” In this show, Father Groeschel gives viewers an in-depth look at how to cope with the prior year’s terrorist attacks on the United States.

### **October 2002**

Mother Angelica tapes new rosary video with her nuns for EWTN, which begins airing in March 2003.

## **EWTN launches in India**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonization of Josemaría Escrivá

### **December 2002**

Mother appears in a pretaped segment on a live program saying “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.” She’s supposed to add the tag line, “Keep us between your gas and electric bill,” but she can’t say. EWTN airs the botched attempt to acquaint the audience with her condition.

## **2003**

### **Jan. 22, 2003**

EWTN covers 30th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

### **April 2003**

EWTN launches new website for young people called EWTNKids

EWTN covers 18th annual World Youth Day in Rome

**May 4, 2003**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonizations of Pedro Poveda Castroverde, José María Rubio y Peralta, Genoveva Torres Morales, Angela de la Cruz and María Maravillas de Jesús in Spain.

**May 18, 2003**

EWTN airs live coverage of the canonizations of Maria de Mattias, Jozef Sebastian Pelczar, Urszula Ledochowska, and Virginia Centurione Bracelli from St. Peter's Square, Rome.

**June 2003**

Mother Angelica is inducted into the Cable TV Pioneers Class of 2003.

**September 2003**

EWTN launches in New York City and other major markets.

**Sept. 5, 2003**

Cardinal Ratzinger grants "The World Over" with Raymond Arroyo an exclusive interview. Less than two years later, he becomes Pope Benedict XVI.

**October 2003**

EWTN airs live coverage of the beatification of Mother Teresa.

**Oct. 12, 2003**

Mother Angelica goes to Lourdes for a secret six-day pilgrimage. She hopes for another miracle of physical healing, but this time the Lord says no.

**2004**

**January 23, 2004**

EWTN airs second exclusive interview with Actor Mel Gibson.

**February 2004**

EWTN airs Town Hall Meeting with the National Review Board on Clerical Sexual Abuse as the board discusses the results of their report.

**March 5, 2004**

Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ," appears on "The World Over" with Raymond Arroyo

**April 2004**

Mother Angelica celebrates her 81st birthday at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and EWTN airs a day of special programming in her honor.

**May 2004**

Alabama Broadcaster's Association names Mother Angelica as "Citizen of the Year."

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**June 2004**

EWTN adds more than 12 million homes on DIRECTV.

**July 2004**

EWTN Global Catholic Network hits the "100 Million Television Homes" mark.

**Aug. 27, 2004**

Mel Gibson Talks About the DVD and Video Release of "The Passion of the Christ" in another exclusive interview with EWTN's Raymond Arroyo

**Oct. 24, 2004**

EWTN launches a new live show, "Sunday Night: Live with Father Benedict Groeschel."

**2005****January 2005**

EWTN's "Life On The Rock" covers the first "West Coast March for Life" from Oakland, Calif.

**April 2005**

EWTN provides extensive coverage of the events surrounding the death of Pope John Paul II.

**June 2005**

EWTN Launches on SKY.

EWTN reaches 110 million homes in 110 countries worldwide.

**August 2005**

EWTN covers Pope Benedict XVI's first apostolic trip: the 20th annual World Youth Day in Germany.

**September 2005**

EWTN offers live Masses and prayers for victims of Hurricane Katrina and other storms.

**October 2005**

EWTN begins celebrating 25 years with its first 25th Anniversary Family Celebration in Denver.

EWTN makes its live programs and classic broadcasts available for podcast on the Internet.

**December 2005**

EWTN covers Pope Benedict XVI's first Christmas Mass.

**2006****January 2006**

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EWTN continues celebrating 25 years with its second 25th Anniversary Family Celebration in San Francisco, California.

EWTN.com celebrates 10 years on Internet.

**March 2006**

25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations continue at the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio, Texas

**May 2006**

The St. Charles Family Arena in St. Louis, Missouri is host to that city's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of EWTN.

EWTN provides live coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's trip to Poland.

**June 2006**

25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is held in Philadelphia, Pa.

**2007**

EWTN launches on the Astra Satellite in Western Europe.

**2008**

EWTN provides complete live coverage of Pope Benedict XVI's first visit to the United States.

**2009**

EWTN hits the "150 million television homes" mark.

**Dec. 8, 2009**

EWTN becomes available to all U.S. affiliates in HD.

