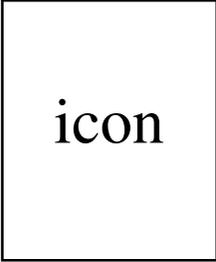


DRINK FROM THE WELLS OF THE CHURCH



icon

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa
Preacher to the Papal Household

Course Manual

**Catholic Evangelisation Services,
PO Box 333,
St Albans,
Herts, AL2 1EL**

**Tel: 01727 823803
Fax: 01727 822837
www.faithcafe.org
E mail info@faithcafe.org**

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Drink from the Wells of the Church is a **CaFE** resource.

CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) is a process by which Catholics can explore their faith together using video resources. This can lead to the development of small faith sharing groups within the parish.

Other resources include: *Knowing God Better, Exploring the Catholic Church, Catholics Making a Difference, Parents – you, your children and their Catholic Faith, Pass It On, Catholics Listening to God and Life in Christ.*

For further information contact Catholic Evangelisation Services

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retreat, are based on the book of Romans. Also included is a collection of short reflections by Fr Raniero on that great hymn to the Holy Spirit “Veni Creator Spiritus”.

All these talks are available on audio cassette.

For further information and resources, please contact:

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The books on the reading list are available from:

Good News Books
Tel: 01582 571011
Fax: 01582 571012

Further Talks

This series is part of a growing library of video material produced by Catholic Evangelisation Services. Other courses include:

Knowing God Better, a series of seven talks by David Payne, Director of Catholic Evangelisation Services. It is designed to help Catholics understand their faith more fully and to become more enthusiastic about it. Talks include

Knowing God Better, Knowing God's Love, Knowing God's Forgiveness, Knowing God's Help, Knowing God's Word, Knowing God's Spirit, Knowing God's Hope

Exploring the Catholic Church by Dr D'Ambrosio. A stimulating series looking at the basics of the Catholic Faith. Talks include

Who needs the Catholic Church? Baptism – Gateway to Life, Personal Prayer – Pathway to Joy, What is the Mass? Getting more out of the Mass Confirmation – Empowered to serve, Keeping a Pure Heart, Mary and the Saints

“Without hesitation, these videos are recommended to those seeking knowledge and insight into the relevance of Catholic teaching – whether they be teachers, catechists or others. The talks are particularly recommended to those with families seeking to understand better, and live, the Mass and the sacraments.”

Anthony Clarke, Director of R.E. and Catechesis, Diocese of Westminster

Catholics Making a Difference by various speakers, challenges Catholics to make a difference through their works, witness and words.

Pass It On by Michelle Moran, Director of Training, Sion Catholic Community for Evangelism. This series gives practical hints on sharing your faith.

Parents – you, your children and their Catholic Faith by David Wells, Director of R.E. Plymouth Diocese. A series of seven talks aimed at those seeking to bring their children up in the Catholic Faith, including preparation for the sacraments.

Catholics Listening to God by Bishop Mark Coleridge. Seven talks designed to help Catholics discover how Scripture, Tradition and the Teaching of the Church can lead to a deeper understanding of their personal faith and their role in the Church.

Life in Christ by Fr Raniero Cantalamessa. This series of eight talks, filmed at a

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Introduction

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa has been a Franciscan Capuchin Priest since 1958. He holds doctorates in divinity and in classical literature. He was teaching in the University of Milan when he felt called to become a full time preacher of the Gospel.

In 1980, Pope John Paul II appointed him Preacher to the Papal Household. In this capacity he gives weekly homilies during Advent and Lent to the Pope, to cardinals, and general superiors of religious orders.

He has preached at retreats and ecumenical conferences throughout the world, and is a respected author and theologian.

Drink from the Wells of the Church

Drink from the Wells of the Church is a series of seven talks designed to help Catholics be sustained in their daily lives. Participants are assumed to have some knowledge of, and to be practising, the Catholic faith. This course aims to give Catholics the opportunity to examine more deeply the teachings of the Church.

How to use the talks

The videos can be used by individuals, but are primarily designed for group use. After the talk there should be time for small group discussion. Ideally groups should be no larger than 12 people, with a group leader to facilitate discussion. The role of the group leader is crucial. Leaders should try to ensure that all members of the group have the opportunity to respond to the talk, to ask questions and explore how they may apply the talks to their daily lives.

At the end of each section there are some suggested discussion questions. These are suggestions only. You may find that you need only one question to get discussion going.

The Word of God is the seed of life

Suggested Questions for Discussion

Which example given by Mary, do you find the most helpful?

Which episode in Mary's life do you find most inspiring?

Further Reading

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa: *Mary, Mirror of the Church*
Published by Liturgical Press ISBN 0-8146-2059-0

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa: *The Power of the Cross*
Published by Darton Longman and Todd ISBN 0-232-52160-3

Lumen Gentium – paragraphs 52 - 69 Vatican II Documents

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Published by Geoffrey Chapman ISBN 0-225-66704-5

Mary, Our Model

Mary is the model disciple of Jesus

Notes

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you

Luke 1:28

Blessed are you who believed that the promise God made would come true

Luke 1:38

Mary was present at the three key moments in salvation history.

The Incarnation

The moment when God became man.

Model of grace.

Mary accepts the Word by grace.

Model of faith.

She believed and accepted God's will.

Like Mary:

- ◇ We receive the Word, Jesus is conceived in us
- ◇ We give birth to Jesus in our lives.

Mary conceived Jesus in her mind, by faith. Before she conceived Jesus in her body.

St Augustine

then
proclaim it.

(Ezekiel 2:9 to 3:3)

Notes

Suggested Questions for Discussion

- How has this talk encouraged you to read scripture?
- In what ways will you approach scripture differently?
- How can you ensure that you act on God's Word?

Further Reading

- Fr Raniero Cantalamessa: The Mystery of God's Word. Published by Liturgical Press ISBN 0-8146-2127-9
- Michel de Verteuil: Your Word is a Light for my Steps: Lectio Divina. Published by Veritas ISBN 1-85390-376-0
- C.S. Lewis: The Screwtape Letters. Published by Harper Collins ISBN 0-00-624565-X
- Bible Alive: Daily Bible Readings with Commentary
Tel No: 01782 745600

The Eucharist Makes Us Holy

An opportunity to offer our lives as a sacrifice to God

Notes

Baptism makes us priests.

We join with the priest in offering ourselves.

We offer ourselves as a living sacrifice.

We are personally involved in the sacrifice of the Mass

The Consecration

- ◇ The Risen Jesus is the main celebrant
- ◇ Head and body are united

We silently say:

“This is my Body”

- my entire life, time, energy, resources

“This is my Blood”

- my death, illness, failings, negativity

We become a Eucharist

Suggested Questions for Discussion

How do you relate to the power of Pentecost in your life?

How can we get more of the Holy Spirit’s power?

How might we proclaim Jesus in practical ways?

Further Reading

Acts of the Apostles: Chapter 2

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa: *The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus*
Published by Liturgical Press ISBN 0-814-62128-7

Fr Ian Petit: *You will receive Power*
Published by Darton Longman and Todd ISBN 0-232-52090-9

Alan Schreck: *Hearts of Flame*
Published by Servant Publications ISBN 0-89283-919-8

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Published by Geoffrey Chapman ISBN 0-225-66704-5

In Jewish tradition the body meant the whole life of the person.

The Power of Pentecost

The experience of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost can happen today

Notes

The Apostles were transformed (Acts Ch 2)

Despite three years with Jesus and the resurrection they lacked power.

Signs of the Holy Spirit

- ◇ Wind: an audible sound, a sign of the breath of God – ruach
- ◇ Fire: a visible sign

Filled with the Spirit

Mary and the Apostles experience:

- ◇ The love of God
- ◇ Joy, hope, courage
- ◇ The divine life of the Trinity

Charisms and Sacraments

The Spirit flows in two ways

Two dimensions:

Unity

- ◇ one body
- ◇ one Spirit
- ◇ one hope.
- ◇

Diversity

- ◇ different gifts
- ◇ different ways of serving.

Sacraments are a sign of unity.

Charisms reflect diversity.

Notes

There is but one Body, one Spirit, just as one hope is the goal of your calling by God. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of all, over all, through all and within all. **Eph 4:4-6**

There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit. There are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. **1 Cor 12:4-5**

Notes

The Holy Spirit acts:

from on high: sanctifying grace to transform from within.

through the roots of the Church, giving gifts to build up the body

The Holy Spirit works in both sacramental and charismatic ways.

Both are to be welcomed
(Lumen Gentium para 12)

Charisms are the nuclear power of the Church

When we pray

- ◇ Jesus continues the prayer
- ◇ We can ask Mary and the Saints to pray with us
- ◇ The Spirit becomes the life and soul of our prayer.

Notes

Suggested Questions for Discussion

What has helped you to persevere in dry times of prayer?

How might you change the way in which you pray?

Old Testament

Charismatic gifts given to particular people for particular tasks:

Prophesy (Numbers 11:24-25)

Craftsmanship (Exodus 31:2-6)

Kingship (1Sam 16:13)

New Testament

Holy Spirit poured out on all at Pentecost (Acts 2)

Further Reading

(Author unknown): The Cloud of Unknowing
Published by Hodder and Stoughton ISBN 0-340-36868-3

Fr Ian Petit: How Can I Pray?
Published by Darton Longman and Todd ISBN 0-232-51947-1

Suggested Questions for Discussion

How do you see the role of charisms and sacraments in your life?

Do you see charisms as the “nuclear power of the Church”?

Further reading:

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa: *The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus*.
Published by Liturgical Press 0-814-62128-7

Fr Ian Petit: *You will receive power*.
Published by Darton Longman and Todd ISBN 0-232-52090-9

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Unanswered prayer

Apparently unanswered prayer

- ◇ the request may not be God’s will, and would not benefit us
- ◇ delay in answer gives us time to grow
- ◇ gives God the chance to ask US to do something
(Matthew 26:36-42)

Practical guidelines

Have a set time for prayer each day.

Persevere even when prayer is hard.

*Go into your room,
close the door and
pray.*

Matt 6:6

Notes

*The essence of
prayer is desire*

St Augustine

Keep on Praying

Prayer is the indispensable key to spiritual life

Notes

It is possible to offer fervent prayer even while walking in public or strolling alone, seated in your shop...while buying or selling or even while cooking.

St John Chrysostom

Within each of us is a longing for prayer.

Pray constantly

Unceasing prayer becomes unconscious, like breathing.

Persevere in prayer

Scripture gives us examples of persistence in prayer:

- ◇ the widow and the judge. (Luke 18:1-8)
- ◇ the Canaanite woman. (Matthew 15:22-28)
- ◇ the Apostles (Acts 1:14)

Sometimes prayer is answered immediately.

(Isaiah 65:24)

Usually it is not.

Obedience to the Spirit

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of obedience to the Spirit

Notes

Jesus' Obedience

- ◇ Jesus fulfilled the scriptures.
- ◇ His obedience is the rock of our salvation.
- ◇ He abandoned himself to the Father.

Our Obedience

In baptism we:

- ◇ accept Jesus' authority
- ◇ became slaves of righteousness
- ◇ receive the grace of obedience.

We should be obedient to:

- ◇ The Word
- ◇ The Spirit of God
- ◇ Secular authorities

