# The Discerning Catholic's Guide to Unhealthy Devotions

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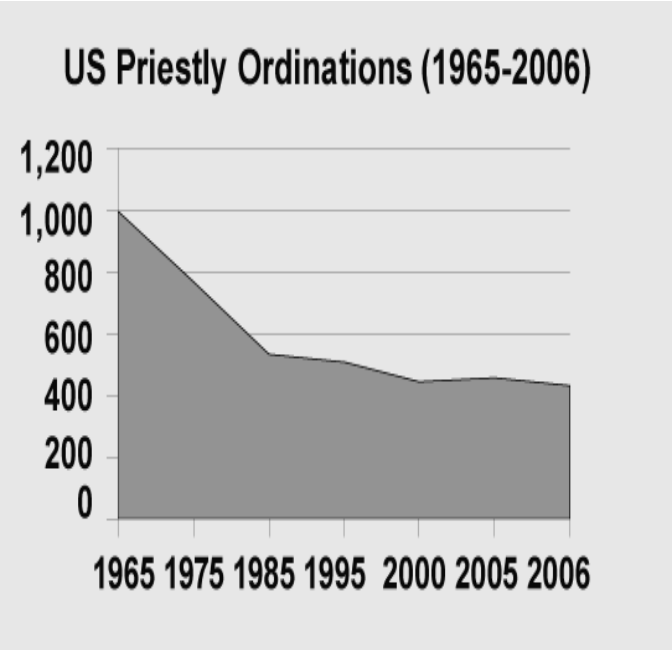
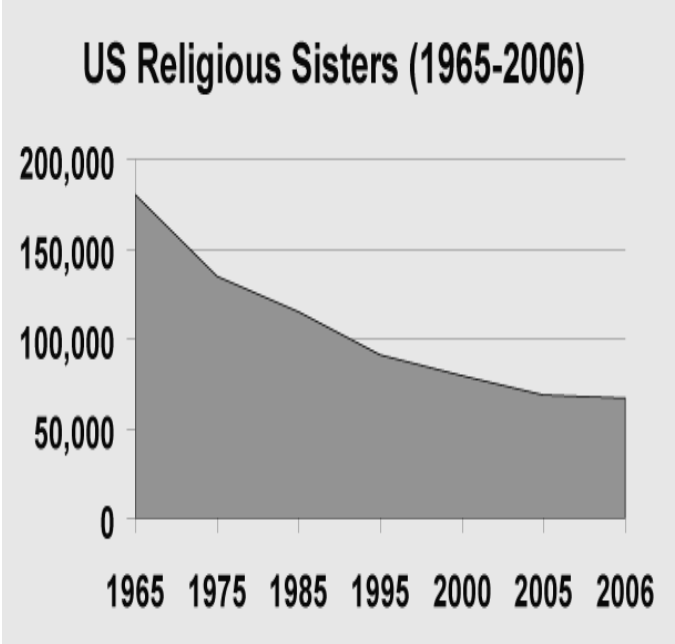
# Introduction

Ever since the Church has openly embraced alternative forms of spirituality, she has been in a constant state of decline. According to Father Matthias Gaudron, "Thousands of priests have abandoned their office, and thousands of monks and religious have returned to secular life. There are very few vocations in Europe and not many in North America either; countless seminaries, convents, and religious houses have closed their doors."[1]




The fact that the Church is in a constant state of decline is undisputed. The question is why?

According to a statement by Pope Paul VI in 1968, "The Church today finds herself in a state of disquiet, self-criticism, one might even say of self-destruction"[2] In 1972, after experiencing a further decline in the priesthood, Pope Paul VI offered more insight into the crisis by saying, "Through some crack, the smoke of Satan has entered the temple of God."[3]

This crack can only be explained in one way—the warnings start in the book of Deuteronomy, and continue throughout the book of Revelation:

*Do not bring an abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You must utterly detest and abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction.*
—Deuteronomy 7:26

*Cursed be anyone who makes an idol or casts an image, anything abhorrent to the Lord, the work of an artisan, and sets it up in secret.*
—Deuteronomy 27:15

*All these curses shall come upon you, pursuing and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the Lord your God, by observing the commandments and the decrees that he commanded you.*
—Deuteronomy 28:45

Because the sin of idolatry involves a very subtle and deceptive interaction with demonic spirits, the following document has been prepared to help the faithful discern the difference between healthy and unhealthy devotions.

# Part I
# Unhealthy Devotions

# Horoscopes

## An Alluring Way to Begin the Journey

Horoscopes seem to be a simple and fun way to determine what kind of situations you will encounter during the week. Will your week be filled with riches, or should you expect a downturn on your financial horizon? Will your love life be set ablaze with sensational romance, or should you be spending more time with friends and family?

As harmless as reading horoscopes from the local newspaper may appear, they have the ability to plant a very small and seductive seed of curiosity within a person's soul. Instead of turning to God in prayer to seek answers for problems in life, people who read horoscopes are subconsciously looking to unknown entities for answers.

Once a person begins this process, the seed of curiosity will eventually grow into a deeper hunger for more advanced forms of personal enlightenment. In an attempt to satisfy this hunger, many people who read daily horoscopes venture out into more personalized forms of fortune-telling. This journey can begin with the study of astrology charts, numerology, or by visiting a local psychic for a palm reading.

As the psychic runs her fingers across her client's hand and begins the process of channeling messages from the spirit realm, most people are amazed at how a complete stranger can know so many details about their life. Once a client develops a level of trust with a psychic, she will usually ask if that person wants to receive a "special blessing" from the spirit guides. If the client agrees to accept the gift, that person will be opening a door to receive the same type of spirit from which the psychic has been channeling messages.

The part that requires discernment on behalf of the faithful is the source of the psychic's power. According to Sacred Scripture, there are two forces at work in the world—good and evil. An interesting example of the spiritual forces that are at work in the world comes from the life of Saint Paul. In the book of Acts we see Saint Paul moving with the power of God. He is performing miraculous healings and preaching the Good News everywhere he goes.

Then one day Paul meets a *"slave-girl who had a spirit of divination"* that brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.[1] *"While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour."*[2]

In this situation, we see two different spirits at work. One Spirit comes from God, the other spirit of divination was coming from fallen angels known as demons. Somewhere in the slave girl's past, she made an agreement with a demonic spirit of divination, which gave her the ability to communicate with the netherworld for the purpose of fortune-telling.

The question that needs to be addressed by the faithful who participate in the daily reading of horoscopes is, what type of spiritual powers do you want to invite into your life? It is not possible to serve God in Spirit and in truth, and at the same time accept messages from demonic entities.

### Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to unveil the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm read-*

*ing, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone."*[3]

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2116

*"All practices of magic or sorcery, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one's service and have a supernatural power over others—even if this were for the sake of restoring their health—are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons."*

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2117

*"False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything."*

Mark 13:22–23

[4]

# Invoking the Saints
## with Talismans and Amulets

Although many Catholics have never heard of a talisman or amulet, most are familiar with the practice of invoking the intercession of the saints. As you can imagine, great problems would arise in the Church if the two practices were combined together. When it's not possible to tell the difference between the occult practice of invoking spiritual powers from talismans and amulets, and the Catholic practice of invoking spiritual powers from religious objects, the faithful would be in serious danger.

According to one metaphysical website, an amulet or talisman is an object charged with spiritual power that can be used for protection against evil, or to attract romance and wealth into a person's life. To ritually charge an object with supernatural power, all a person needs to do is place the object on an altar and "visualize a beam of light" coming from the heavens through his hands into that object. The prayer to spiritually charge an occult object reads as follows: "I hereby declare this object charged with the powers of earth, wind, fire, water, and spirit. That it shall be used only for good, according to my will and divine law. May it serve me well in this world, between worlds, and in all the worlds, Amen."[1]

After the object has been charged with power from unknown spiritual entities, it can then be used in a number of ways. For example, the Saint Anthony talisman has the power to help people find lost articles. According to one voodoo practitioner's website, "If you wish something returned to you, turn an image of St. Anthony upside down by a St. Anthony candle. Carry the amulet and pray to St. Anthony until your request is granted."[2]

If you want to make your enemies disappear, the Saint Expedite talisman is recommended. According the same website, "Many folks write their desire in the background of a St. Expedite image and turn it on its head (upside down) while burning a candle. If you do this, put your amulet in a glass of Holy Water next to the candle so that between the image, candle and glass you have a triangle shape."[3]

Other websites have been selling occult books along with Catholic images, icons, and prayer cards. The occult books include white and black magic, charms, spells and formulas, divination, rootwork, tarot, and other forms of magic. The Catholic products listed on the same website include: The Infant of Prague—to be used during time of crisis, Our Lady of Fatima—to be used for political aid, Saint Christopher—to prevent accidents, Saint Joseph—for those who wish to sell real estate.[4]

According to the Catechism in section 2683, Catholics can and should ask for the saints' intercession, but it's important to understand the difference between asking the saints to pray on our behalf, and trying to invoke supernatural powers from religious objects. The healthy way to pray in communion with the saints is to keep our prayers focused on God. According to the Catechism in section 2664, *"There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray in the name of Jesus."*

According to the Catechism, the proper way to pray in *"communion with the saints"* is to keep our prayer focused on God. Once we have opened a direct line of communication with God, we can then ask the saints to pray for us, or we can join our prayers together with the saints' prayers, thus praying in "communion with the saints" to God.

When Catholics cross the line and start praying directly to spiritual entities other than the Blessed Trinity, they open themselves up to demonic influence through the sin of idolatry. According to the Catechism in section 2113, the sin of idolatry is committed anytime we try to seek spiritual blessings from a creature, whether that be angels or saints, in place of God: *"Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains*

*a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God."*

When Catholics use a talisman, amulet, or any other religious article in an attempt to invoke supernatural powers from unknown spiritual entities, then fallen angels (who like to impersonate the real saints) have the ability to manifest their powers through that object. When this happens, the real Saint Anthony is up in heaven asking God to send the necessary graces so that the person will turn away from idol worship, but unfortunately, there's not much God can do in this situation.

The spiritual laws of the universe have already been set in place. God has already given the Church the Ten Commandments along with the specific instructions: *"You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me."*[5]

Whenever a person disobeys God's commandments and commits the sin of idolatry as defined in the Catechism, fallen angels have the right to interfere with that person's spirituality. Once the door to the demonic has been opened, it is very difficult for that person to enter into an authentic relationship with the Blessed Trinity.

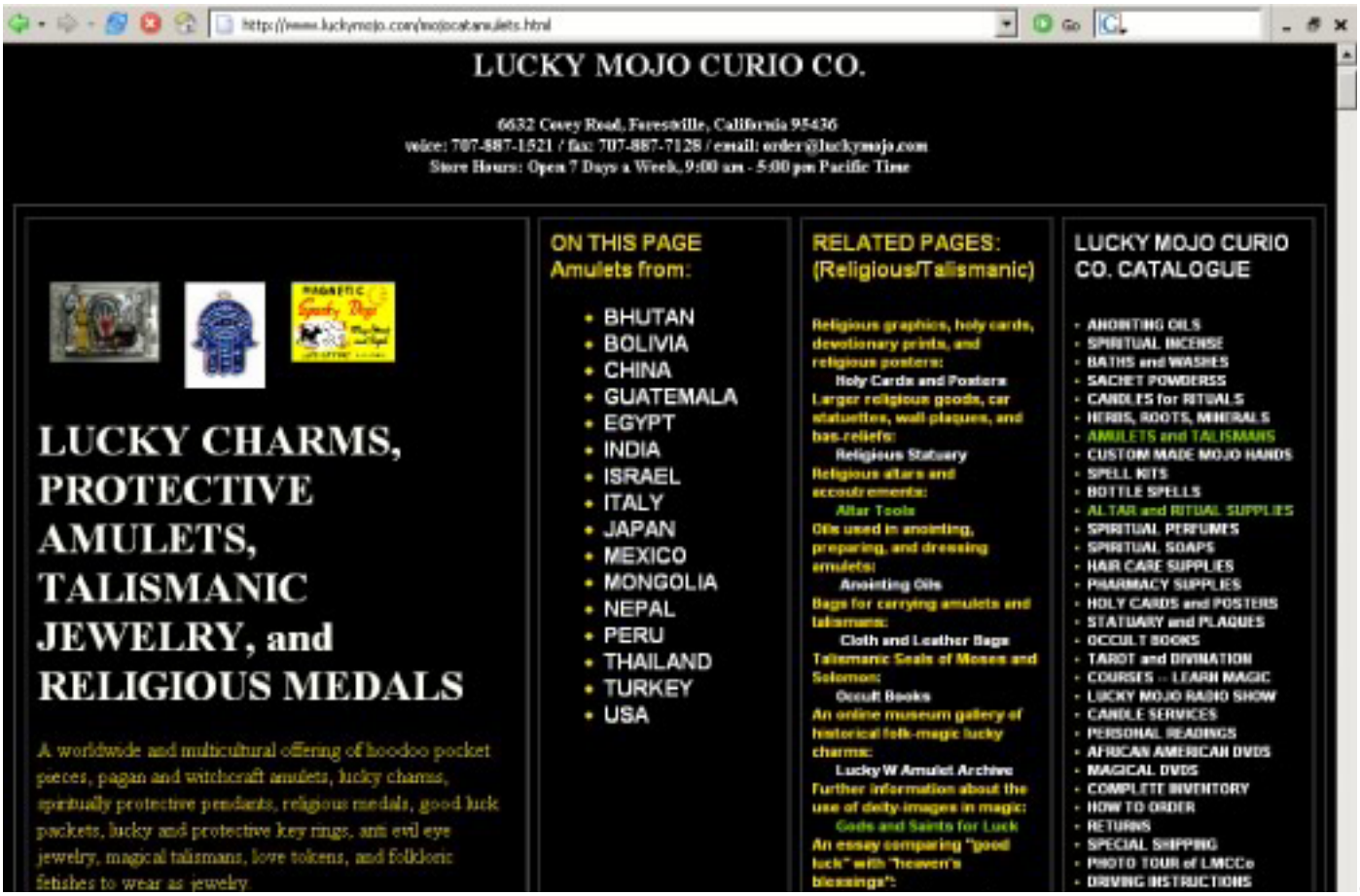
## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"Little children, keep yourselves from idols."*

1 John 5:21

*"Wearing charms is also reprehensible. Spiritism often implies divination or magical practices; the Church for her part warns the faithful against it."*

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2117



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# Saint Joseph Capsule
## to Sell Real Estate

In an attempt to invoke supernatural powers for selling real estate, plastic statues of Saint Joseph are being offered for sale in Catholic stores across the nation. These four-inch-tall figurines are being packaged in "Home Sale Kits" that include a prayer card and instructions on how to bury the statue upside down in the ground. Other kits include a plastic burial bag so that the statue can be dug up after closing and given a place of honor inside the seller's new home.[1]

Some sources say the statue needs to be buried exactly twelve inches deep. Others insist it needs to be buried facing toward the street near the real estate sign. Condo owners are encouraged to bury the statue in a flowerpot. Some people bury Saint Joseph lying on his back pointing toward the house to create a type of "magnetic arrow." One woman buried Saint Joseph facing away from her house only to discover that the residence across the street sold even though the house had not been placed on the market.

It is not known where this practice originated. Some sources say the tradition dates back to a time called the Degradation of the Saints. In this era, the saints were buried in the ground and threatened by making statements like, "I will keep you in the ground with your head in the dirt until you help me sell my house!" Other sources claim the practice dates back to German carpenters who used to bury statues in the foundations of houses for good luck.

Regardless of the origins, the Catechism of the Catholic Church regards such practices as sacrilegious and superstitious. According to section 2120, *"Sacrilege consists in profaning or treating unworthily the sacraments and other liturgical actions, as well as persons, things, or places consecrated to God."* Because Saint Joseph is a person consecrated to God, burying a statue of him upside down in the ground in an attempt to invoke supernatural powers for selling real estate would qualify as a sacrilegious behavior.

The Catechism also states in section 2110 that such behavior is superstitious and a *"perverse excess of religion."* The sin of superstition is committed anytime sacramental graces are attributed to anything other than God. A person commits the sin of superstition thinking that a statue buried in a specific direction will invoke supernatural powers. If the house does sell, all the glory, honor, and credit goes to a piece of plastic, instead of going to God.

Not only does this practice border on Spiritualism, an occult practice that uses magic charms, talismans, and amulets to invoke demonic powers, but it also robs the homeowner of the responsibility to make Jesus the Lord over all his financial affairs. Jesus wants to develop a deep and intimate relationship with all of his beloved children. Jesus wants his followers to seek his guidance and learn how to listen to his softly spoken voice.

This type of interaction with Jesus is described in the Catechism in sections 2709–2724 as contemplative prayer. In this type of prayer the faithful can ask Jesus questions and listen for his guidance. Jesus wants to be the Lord over all our decisions, including where we live, what house we buy, and every other major decision that we make in life.

God has all the answers, power, and provisions that we need. He knows every detail of the real estate market. He knows whether it's in our best interest to buy or sell. He wants all of his beloved children to surrender their lives into his service, and look to his guidance in all of our personal, financial, and real estate endeavors.

### Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."*

John 10:27

# Unhealthy Devotions

*"Contemplative prayer is hearing the Word of God. Far from being passive, such attentiveness is the obedience of faith, the unconditional acceptance of a servant, and the loving commitment of a child."*

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2716

*"If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you."*

James 1:5

2

# Communicating
## with Ghosts, Phantoms and Other Spirits

Along with the New Age movement comes another supernatural phenomenon that has increased over the years—ghost sightings. Usually when spirits of the dead manifest their presence inside a person's home, there has been some type of occult practice that has given the demons permission to access that person's property.

In one case, a teenage boy had been playing with the Ouija board with some of his friends. Not long afterward, his parents began hearing strange scratching noises from inside the walls. After an exterminator made an extensive investigation and found no evidence of mice, termites, or any other kind of vermin or insect, the parents called in a ghost investigation team. The more the teenage boy attempted to communicate with spirits from the netherworld, the more strange phenomena occurred.

The ghost investigation team wanted to document the disturbance by taking pictures, shooting VHS footage, and recording the eerie sounds. The psychic ghost team also wanted the parents to sign legal documents granting them all media rights. After several months of investigative efforts, it seemed the ghost investigators were more interested in exploiting the strange phenomena than they were in addressing the root cause.

In an attempt to help with these kinds of situations, a number of Catholic "Ghost Busting" ministries have surfaced. One woman, who has been trying to get her "House Cleaning" book endorsed by a Bishop, claims that she has developed a system of interviewing the ghosts to make sure they are lost souls and not demons. Because this women has a degree in psychology, she thinks that by interviewing the ghosts, she can help them resolve any "unfinished business" that they may have on earth, and by doing so, help them to return to God in heaven.

Unfortunately, what most Catholics fail to understand is that God specifically forbids all forms of communication with the dead. According to Deuteronomy 18:10–12, *"No one shall be found among you who...casts spells, or who consults ghosts or spirits, or who seeks oracles from the dead. For whoever does these things is abhorrent to the Lord."* God doesn't want anyone communicating with ghosts, seeking advice from the netherworld, or participating in any other type of communication with the dead.

Not only does God specifically forbid Catholics from communicating with spirits of the dead, but the entire concept of ghosts conflicts with Sacred Scripture. Most people think that just because the Bible mentions the word "ghost," that the souls of the dead are free to roam the universe any time they want. This concept conflicts with Scripture for several reasons:

In Luke 16:19–31, there was a rich man who lived in luxury and feasted sumptuously every day. *"And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table."*[1] *"When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side."*[2]

The rich man wanted to escape from the place of torment, but when he asked permission Abraham said, *"Between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours."*[3] The rich man was not free to escape the abode of the dead because God had fixed a "great chasm" that couldn't be crossed.

According to the Catechism in section 997, when a person dies his soul is separated from his body and that *"soul goes to meet God."* The person is not free to return to earth to haunt abandoned buildings, or to move furniture around inside a person's home. The Catechism in section 393 says, *"there is no repentance for men after death."* When a person dies, all his "earthly busi-

ness" as well as his opportunity to repent, has come to a full and complete conclusion: *"There is no repentance for the angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after death."*[4]

In most cases, psychic ghost investigations are nothing more than an attempt to exploit demonic activity for the purpose of creating fear-driven media projects. Because demons don't like to disclose their true identity, they usually appear in the form of helpless little girls or elderly grandparents. These types of deceptive spirits appear to be lost and confused victims who need human sympathy and prayer support, but they are just another tactic from the enemy to ensnare souls.

Once a person starts praying to spirits of the dead, trying to seek blessings, favors, or oracles from the netherworld, or by playing with the Ouija board, or engaging in any other occult practices, he opens himself up for demonic attack. Other forms of demonic house haunting occur when there has been a history of witchcraft in the family's lineage or when the family has failed to take authority over their lives and home in the name, power, and authority of Jesus.

## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"I urge you, brothers and sisters, to keep an eye on those who cause dissensions and offenses, in opposition to the teaching that you have learned; avoid them. For such people do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the simple-minded."*

Romans 16:17–18

*"This is how you must deal with them: break down their altars, smash their pillars, hew down their sacred poles, and burn their idols with fire. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession."*

Deuteronomy 7:5–6

5

# Automatic Writing
## Another Form of Channeling

Another technique that allows people to communicate with the netherworld comes from a practice called automatic writing. According to one ghost investigation website, automatic writing occurs "in an altered state of consciousness that is attributed to spirits of the dead. It is believed by some that the spirits literally manipulate the writing utensil in the hands of the medium to communicate, as the writer is often unaware of what is being written and often even scrawls out text in handwriting that is markedly different than his own."[1]

According to this website, "Other forms of automatic writing go beyond mere messages and include drawing and painting and even music that is allegedly inspired by the dead. In some cases, mediums or individuals with little or no artistic training will suddenly feel compelled to paint or draw in distinctive, professional styles. They feel guided by a spirit, as if another hand is guiding their own."[2]

Another ghost investigation website offers the following advice to help people enter a trance so that they can begin channeling their own messages:

» Either go through a body relaxation, or use a trigger to put yourself into a trance-like state.

» Ask your guides, masters, or whoever you wish to communicate with, to join you.

» Have them sign in and then sign out when the session is through. This will give you an indication of who you are communicating with.

» When you feel them around you, you'll feel your protection intensify.

» Allow your eyes to open slightly while holding your pen or pencil with a very limp wrist.

» At the end of the session, thank whomever you have communicated with for sharing their information with you.[3]

As dangerous as this practice sounds, there are many well-known Catholics who have been using this technique to deliver messages to the faithful. A good example of this comes from the life of Vassula Ryden the author of *True Life in God*. When the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith condemned her work, Vassula responded by saying, "Why the Lord chose this special form of writing down the messages to which He even seizes my hand? I really do not know. The Lord just told me when I asked him why: 'Because I like it in this way.'"[4]

Another example of a well-known author who has been channeling messages from the spirit realm comes from the life of Maria Valtorta. After making suffering vows to an entity called "Divine Justice," Maria found herself crippled and unable to leave her bed. During this time she wrote more than 15,000 pages from spiritual entities that were later compiled into the five-volume series entitled *The Poem of the Man-God*. Even though the Holy Office examined *The Poem of the Man-God* and condemned it, recommending that it be placed on the Index of Forbidden Books, it continues to be promoted at false apparition sites throughout the world.[5]

Although it is true that God wants to commune with all of his beloved children, he will never violate anyone's free will by taking control of the individual's hand to write messages. When this type of phenomena occurs, it is a good indicator that the medium has opened the door to the demonic.

### Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord."*

Jeremiah 29:8–9

*"They have envisioned falsehood and lying divination; they say, 'Says the Lord,' when the Lord has not sent them, and yet they wait for the fulfillment of their word! Have you not seen a false vision or uttered a lying divination, when you have said, 'Says the Lord,' even though I did not speak? Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you have uttered falsehood and envisioned lies, I am against you, says the Lord God."*

Ezekiel 13:6–8

*"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Even so, many will follow their licentious ways, and because of these teachers the way of truth will be maligned."*

2 Peter 2:1–2

# Spirit Guide Channeling
## with the Ascended Masters

Another popular New Age practice called channeling occurs when a person contacts the spirit realm with the intention of receiving visions or messages. There are a number of ways to channel messages; for example, some people use the Ouija board. After asking the netherworld questions, the participants place their hands on a pointer and allow an unknown entity to move their hands around a board that contains letters and numbers to spell out the answer.

Other forms of channeling are more streamlined. Some psychics gaze into a crystal ball in order to receive messages. Others use a more direct approach called spirit guide channeling. In this process a person makes direct contact with a spirit guide by inviting that entity into his life. In an attempt to help people channel messages from their own spirit guides, one New Age website describes the process as follows:

"Lie down in a comfortable position. Let your mind wander for a moment. See if you can experience what it is like to feel the energy around your body. Just imagine that you are in the middle of a flow of energy.

"While not letting go of this image notice that there is a larger energy just outside of your own flow. We want you to know that there are always flows of energy near you but there are particular ones that we want you to become aware of. These are the energies of the master guides. There are several ones near you now. We want you to speak to one. Speak in your mind or out loud. 'I want the highest master guide to come to me and to speak with me.'

"When you are full of this energy then you will be able to speak to it. You may ask it its name. Who are you? You may ask. Wait for the answers. Sometimes you have to wait a moment or two. Then your guide will speak his or her name."[1]

When channeling messages from a spirit guide, some people feel they make contact with their own personal guide, similar to a guardian angel. Others feel they make contact with one of the Ascended Masters. According to many New Age practitioners, these highly advanced spiritual beings once lived a good and holy life here on earth, but instead of ascending to a God-like form, the Ascended Masters now choose to remain on earth to help people.

The New Age list of Ascended Masters contains many different entities like Amerissis, the Goddess of Light, and Nada, the Chohan of the Sixth Ray. The list of Ascended Masters also contains many Catholic saints like Elijah, Gabriel the Archangel, the Immaculata, Jesus the Christ, John Paul the Great, Mary the Mother of Jesus, Michael the Archangel, Mother Cabrini, Mother Teresa, and Padre Pio.[2]

When a New Age practitioner channels messages from one of the Ascended Masters named "Ruler of the Violet Temple" most Catholic have enough discernment to know that the person is channeling messages from a fallen angel that has been operating under the name, Ruler of the Violet Temple. But what happens when Catholics commit the same type of sin? For example, when Catholics make a vow to consecrate themselves as the slaves of the Immaculata, are they delivering their bodies and souls to the New Age Immaculata, giving that entity the right to dispose of everything that belongs to them, or are they granting those rights to God?

Another example of a Catholic saint Ascended Master comes from the biography of the world's most famous psychic medium. According to her biography, "Elizabeth Baron is perhaps the world's most famous psychic medium, having spent almost three decades featured on radio & television shows, and in newspapers all over the world. Elizabeth is also considered 'The World's Most Documented Psychic Medium.'"[3]

According to Elizabeth's biography, the Ascended Master, Saint Catherine of Siena, started delivering messages to her in 1978. Elizabeth describes this experience by saying, "I was vis-

ited by the spirit of what appeared to be a lady in white. She came to me at 5:00 a.m. on a cold February Chicago morning just as I awoke and turned the light on by my bedside to read a little before my children got up. The 'spirit' appeared in a glorious bright light that seemed to inundate my very soul! She told me I had a mission and that she would like to work through me to help others to feel good about themselves and to help the world to be a better place."[4]

From that point forward, Elizabeth said her "life would never be the same." She spent the next thirty years as a psychic medium delivering messages from the netherworld. The question is, did God send the real Saint Catherine of Siena to deliver the messages, or did a demonic entity assume the saint's name?[5]

What most Catholics fail to realize is that Satan can assign any name and title he wants to his vast army of fallen angels, including the names of popular Catholic saints. Maybe this is why Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church instruct the faithful to direct their prayers to the Blessed Trinity.

## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray in the name of Jesus."*

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2664

*"In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit."*

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2565

*"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ."*

Colossians 2:8

6

# Tarot Cards
## for Contacting Angels and Saints

Tarot cards are another form of divination used by psychics to foresee the future. A traditional deck contains seventy-eight cards—fifty-six regular praying cards and twenty-two other cards called the major arcane. These cards include images of the fool, devil, temperance, hermit, sun, lovers, juggler, hanged man, and death. The cards are used to reveal hidden truths about a person's life. Those who have their cards read regularly say the readings help them prepare for the future and also divulge secrets about other people around them.

Experienced psychic readers claim they are the only ones who can deliver an accurate reading from a deck and caution others about seeking interpretations from a book. Experienced tarot readers feel the best way to get an accurate reading is to have their clients concentrate on the cards while the psychic helps them put their own "special vibration" on the deck, so that cards will reveal the fullness of their mysteries.

In order to deliver a reading, most psychics will lay the cards out in special combinations called spreads. In these spreads, it becomes possible for the reader to see a detailed, pictorial representation of their client's life. In the traditional ten-card spread, called the Celtic Cross, a reader can discern the "energy" of the cards along with their positions to determine what events will most likely occur in the future.

Once a spread has been set, the psychic can then start delivering messages about that person's life. For example, the reader may comment about the client's love life—giving that person advice on whom he or she should date or marry. Other clients may be seeking insight into what career path they should choose, or what business venture they should embark upon next.

Although it is very common for most people to seek answers to these questions, it's important to discern the source from which the answers are coming. From the Christian perspective, there are only two forces at work in the world—good and evil. The messages are either coming from God, his angels or saints, or they are coming from fallen angels commonly referred to as demons. Because God has already condemned all occult and New Age practice, it's safe to assume the messages from tarot cards are not coming from God, but from demonic sources.

All forms of divination constitute a serious sin because they open a person up to demonic influence. Divination also robs a person of the responsibility in making Jesus the Lord of his life. Jesus wants to enter into a deep and intimate relationship with all of his beloved children. He wants to help his followers make the right decisions in their lives based on the truth found in Sacred Scripture and by developing a serious and discerning prayer life. Jesus knows who a person should date or marry, or if that person would be better off being single. Jesus knows every detail of our lives, and he wants all of his beloved children to submit to his divine love, providence, and care.

Although many Catholics would agree with the Church's teachings in regard to the dangers that lurk behind New Age and occult practices, what many fail to realize is that the sin of idolatry also applies to practices that have been disguised with Catholic images. A good example of this deception comes from the deck of Catholic tarot cards:

According to one New Age site, "The Saints and angel oracle cards will help you lovingly and safely connect with heaven. Seventeen cards feature popular Catholic saints including Mother Teresa who, while beatified, isn't technically a saint. Two Archangels make it into the deck—St. Raphael and St. Michael—and the remaining four cards are dedicated to the Catholic quadrinity: God, Mother Mary, Holy Spirit, and Christ."[1]

Other cards include the following images:
» St. Bernadette—Speak Your Truth
» St. Christopher—Safe Travel

» St. Joan of Arc—You're a Leader
» St. Nicholas of Myra—Generosity
» St. Padre Pio—Healing
» St. Hildegard of Bingen—Believe
» St. Agnes of Rome—Don't Compromise
» St. Francis of Assisi—Animals
» St. Mary Magdalene—Forgiveness

Even though there are many occult and New Age practices marked with images of Catholic angels and saints, according to the Catechism in section 2116, all forms of divination are to be rejected.

## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"Cursed be anyone who makes an idol or casts an image, anything abhorrent to the Lord, the work of an artisan, and sets it up in secret."*

Deuteronomy 27:15

*"If prophets or those who divine by dreams appear among you and promise you omens or portents, and the omens or the portents declared by them take place, and they say, 'Let us follow other gods and let us serve them,' you must not heed the words of those prophets or those who divine by dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you indeed love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul."*

Deuteronomy 13:1–3

# Meditations
## to Center, Transform and Empower

There are many different types of New Age meditations that promise a vast range of benefits, everything from spiritual enlightenment to psychic healing. These practices include techniques like centering prayer, creative visualization, Zen and Buddhist practices, yoga, and other energy-based meditations. Most of these forms of meditation begin by chanting a sacred mantra in an attempt to enter a trance-like state.

According to one Hindu tradition, commonly referred to as Transcendental Meditation, a mantra or sacred Sanskrit word is given to the student to meditate on twice a day. Once the instructor gives the student the sacred mantra, he is never to divulge it to another person. The student is then advised to repeat the mantra over and over again while "assuming a passive and accepting posture."

On one Sanskrit-Mantra website a list of mantras is offered to help people overcome various life issues along with a definition of the meaning for each mantra. For example, the "*Ganesha: Om Gum Ganapatayei Namaha*" chant is asking a spiritual entity named Ganesha to remove all obstacles in a person's life.[1]

"*Lakshmi: Om Shrim Mahalakshmiyei Swaha*" is addressing a feminine energy asking her to bestow all manners of wealth in a person's life. "*Durga: Om Dum Durgayei Namaha*" is another feminine energy that has a hundred arms, each equipped with a different weapon of destruction. By chanting this mantra, the participants pay tribute to Durga and ask her to protect them from all negative influences.[2] (Note: Christianity may be considered a negative influence by this entity.)

Other forms of meditation are more contemplative. Instead of chanting a mantra to invoke various gods and goddesses, one New Age site recommends a more direct approach by saying, "Set your spiritual intent to contact your spirit guide. If you like, do a prayer to ask for spiritual support as you make contact with your spirit guide.

"Inwardly, call in your spirit guide. Start to open up your awareness of their presence. You may see them, feel their presence, hear them communicating, or somehow just know they are there. As spirit, say 'hello' to your spirit guide. Allow yourself to receive a 'hello' back from your spirit guide.

"Breathe and just be in their presence. Without speaking, ask your spirit guide if they have a message for you. Be still and allow yourself to receive their spiritual communication. Just be... and listen.

"After a few minutes, or when that feels complete, bring your palms together in front of your heart. Finish by saying, 'Thank you' to your spirit guide for all their support in life. Let go of focusing on your spirit guide and focus your attention on yourself."[3]

Although these types of practices may sound alluring to those who are hungry for deeper spiritual encounters, they are very dangerous because they are an open door for demonic influence. Once the doorway has been opened to the demonic by chanting mantras or inviting spirit guides into your life, it will be very difficult to get these entities to leave. These entities may seem very helpful at first, but after they develop a stronghold in your life, they will hinder your relationship with God and lead you into deeper forms of bondage along with a never-ending search for enlightenment.

Although Catholics are encouraged to meditate on Sacred Scripture and practice contemplative prayer to discern the Lord's will for their lives, they are not allowed to chant mantras to demonic entities or to invite spirit guides into their lives.

### Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread,*

*or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night."*

Psalm 1:1–2

*"Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation."*

Psalm 119:97–99

*"With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord. I will keep your statutes. I cry to you; save me, that I may observe your decrees. I rise before dawn and cry for help; I put my hope in your words. My eyes are awake before each watch of the night, that I may meditate on your promise."*

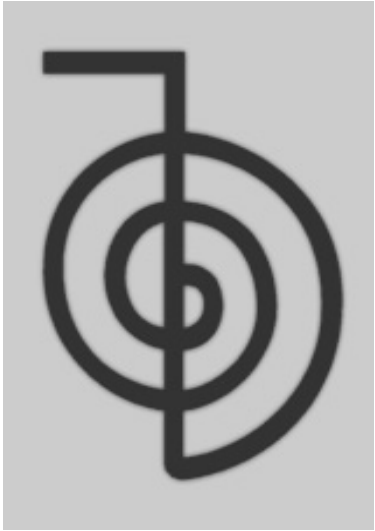
Psalm 119:145–148

4

# Reiki Healing Energy
## Available at Catholic Convents

Reiki is another method of psychic healing in which a "Universal Life Force Energy" is transferred from the healer's hands into the patient's body. According to the Reiki-for-Holistic-Health website, the technique works by invoking energy from Reiki power symbols. The following symbols are most commonly used by Reiki practitioners:

The main power symbol looks like a musical note with a spiral design in the center. To use the power symbol, the practitioner invokes the name of an entity called "Cho Ku Ray," three times. The practitioner can also draw the symbol on the person's body using the palms of his hands, or he can visualize the symbol on the patient's body, or even spell the symbol's name three times.[1]



Other symbols include "Hon Sha Ze Sho Nen" which is used for spiritual enlightenment. The "Tam-a-ra-sha" symbol looks like a peace sign with additional characters in the center and is used to "unblock the energy chakra centers allowing the energy to flow." The most powerful of all symbols, which can only be used by Reiki Masters, is "Dai Ko Myo." This symbol takes the form of a lightning bolt, and when this entity is invoked, it has the ability to "heal a person's soul."[2]

As the New Age movement continues to grow, many Catholics are finding themselves being lured away from authentic forms of healing and venturing into the realm of psychic healings. To make matters worse, there are a number of Catholic convents that are offering Reiki energy treatments to unsuspecting retreat attendees. At the Sisters of Charity convent in Cincinnati, Ohio, Sister Mary Fran Davisson is a certified Reiki Master who describes the results of her practice as follows: "A person is fully clothed during a session. He or she may experience an opening of blocked energy, a sense of balance and centeredness, an awakening of the body's natural ability to heal itself, and a sense of personal well-being and peace."[3]

Another convent that incorporates Reiki into its ministry efforts is the Sisters of Saint Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana. Here Sister Anita Louise Lowe is a certified Reiki Master and has been performing energy healing since 1995.[4] Another convent that invokes energy healing is the Sisters of Saint Francis from Oldenburg, Indiana. Sister Anita Brelage is a certified Reiki Master of the Usui lineage and an Integrated Energy Therapy (IET) Master instructor. Her services are available for $50 per session.[5]

Although most Catholic Reiki instructors would claim that the spiritual energy that is being channeled into a person's body is coming from God—what they fail to understand is that God doesn't use the names of demonic power symbols to heal people. God's healing power flows naturally into a person's life when that individual spends the necessary time maintaining an authentic relationship with the Blessed Trinity.

The devil also has the ability to make a person feel better and even appear to be healed. For example, in the book of Job 2:7, *"Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head."* To create the appearance that Job had been healed, all Satan would have had to do was stop inflicting the sickness on Job, and he would recover.

God has the ability and the desire to cast demonic spirits of infirmity out of his beloved children, but this process usually requires personal growth in the area of holiness, and a deeper commitment to serve God in spirit and in truth.

This process usually requires people to turn away from their sins of idolatry and to denounce all occult and New Age practices. According to James 5:14–16, *"They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed."*

## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in his sight, and give heed to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not bring upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you."*

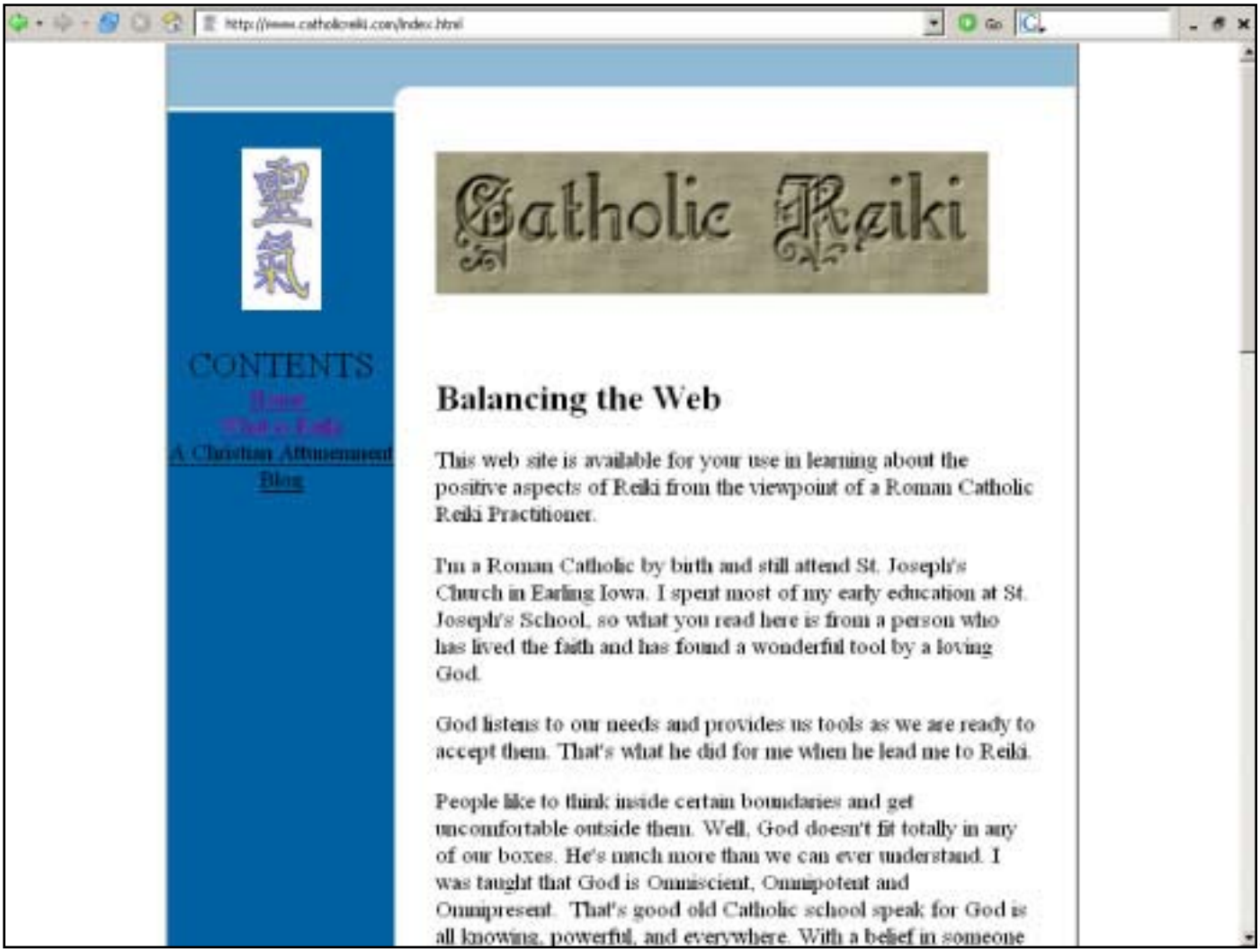
Exodus 15:26

*"That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'"*

Matthew 8:16–17

*"Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly."*

Matthew 17:18



# Yoga Classes
## at Local Catholic Church

There are many different ways to achieve enlightenment within the New Age movement. One method that combines physical exercise, mantras, and meditation is called yoga. In this highly acclaimed form of self-discipline, the practitioner seeks to yoke himself to God by practicing the following eight stages of self-purification:

**Stage 1–2**

In the first two stages of yoga the practitioner takes moral and ethical steps to prepare himself for God-consciousness. These stages can include fasting, moral living, sexual abstinence, and meditation.

**Stage 3–4**

In the next stages of yoga, the practitioner performs physical exercises, stretches, and body postures while practicing breathing techniques and chanting mantras.

**Stage 5**

In the fifth stage the practitioner attempts to withdraw his senses.

**Stage 6–8**

In the last three stages the practitioner becomes more involved with deeper forms of meditation in an attempt to complete the final stage which is God-consciousness. In the final stage, the meditator and the objects of meditation become one.

There are many different styles of yoga, and each practice encourages a different path to liberation and enlightenment. The most popular form in India is called Dhakti. Another form called Hatha, places more emphasis on the "energy flow" that the participants invite into their bodies. Tantra yoga centers on the worship of the Hindu supreme goddess called Shakti. This deity is worshiped as the divine mother who calls for absolute surrender.

Those who practice and promote yoga claim that the supernatural energies that are released to flow inside of a person's body have remarkable healing and life-changing properties. The benefits of yoga include better balance, a more active sex life, an increased ability to focus, a deeper sense of relaxation, more flexible joints, and overall improved health.

The problem with yoga comes from the meditations and mantras that are used to invite spiritual energy into a person's body. Many of the mantras used in yoga invoke the names of foreign gods and goddesses asking them to send forth different types of spiritual energy. One yoga website offers a list of mantras along with their English translations as follows:

*"Guru Guru Wahe Guru, Guru Ram Das Guru."*

By chanting this mantra, the practitioner is calling upon a spiritual entity named Guru Ram Das, asking for spiritual guiding light and protective grace.[1]

*"Prana, Apana, Sushumna. Hari. Hari Har, Hari Har, Hari Har, Hari."*

When a practitioner chants this mantra, he is calling upon three different spiritual entities to draw energy up from the spine for healing. Prana in the god of life force, Apana is the god of eliminating force, and Sushumna is the central channel for that force.[2]

On another yoga website the practitioner is advised to bow down to the thousand-year-old tradition and say a prayer to a god called Patanjali—because he is the one who is the most important guide for the path of yoga. The mantra that is used along with its English translation reads as follows:

*"Om vande gurunam caranaravinde sandarshita svatma sukha va bodhe nih sreyase jangalika yamane samsara halahala mohasahantyai abahu purushakaram shankacakrasi dharinam sahasra shirasam svetam pranamami Patanjalim Om."*

"I pray to the lotus feet of the supreme Guru who teaches the good knowledge, showing the way to knowing the self-awakening great happiness; who is the doctor of the jungle, able to remove the poison of the ignorance of conditioned existence. To Patanjali, an incarnation of Adisesa, white in color with 1000 radiant heads, human in form below the shoulders holding a sword, a wheel of fire, and a conch—to him, I prostrate."[3]

Although Catholics are encouraged to respect their physical bodies by performing daily exercise and maintaining a healthy diet, they are not allowed to chant the names of foreign gods, or to invite demonic healing energies into their bodies.

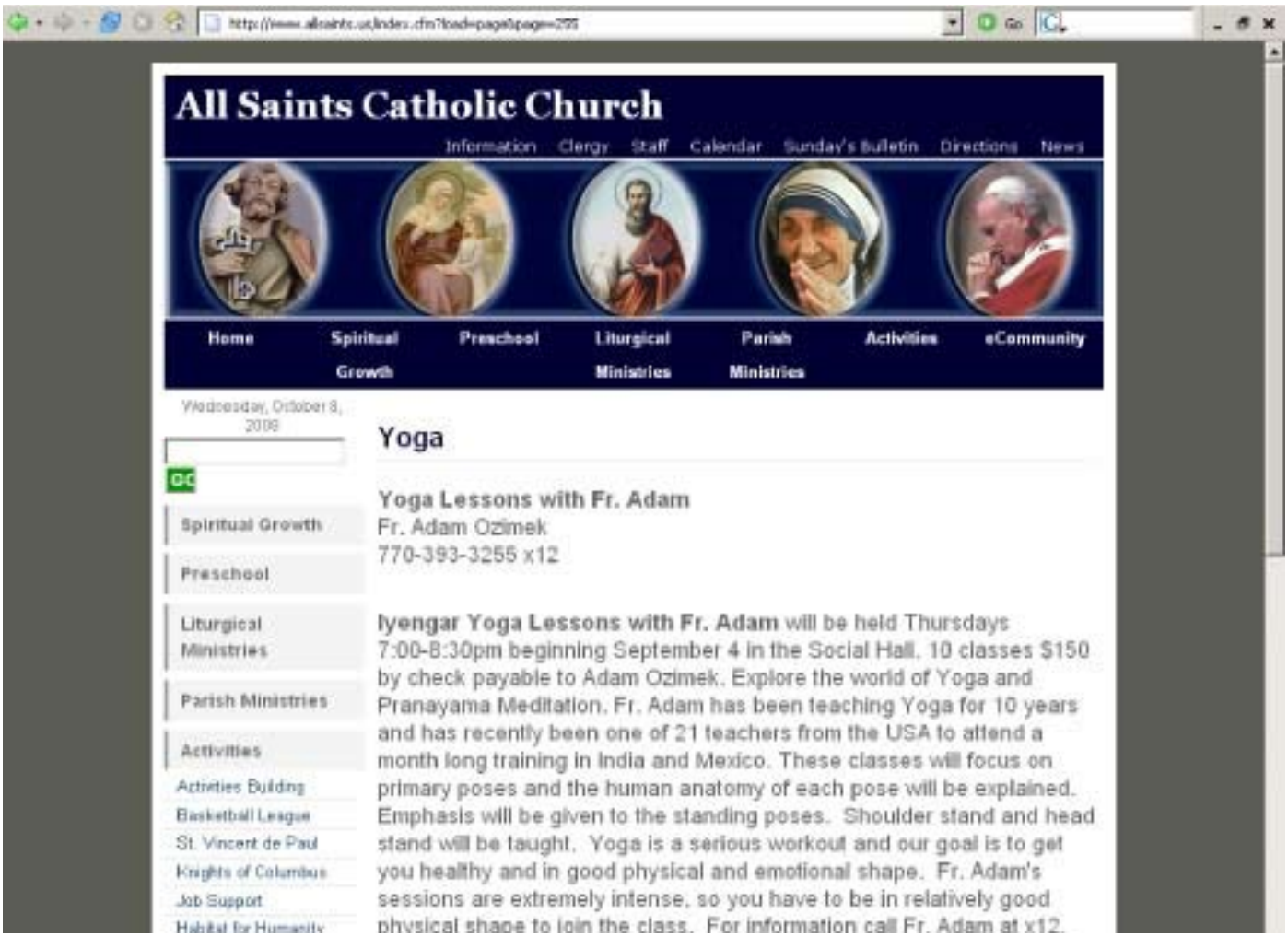
## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

*"What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be your Father, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'"*

2 Corinthians 6:16–18



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# Hypnotism
## A Dangerous Form of Spiritualism

Every day thousands of Catholics are searching the Internet looking for spiritual answers to solve their problems. One alternative that seems to be highly acclaimed by medical doctors and psychologists alike is hypnotism. According to these sources, hypnotism has the ability to help people quit smoking, lose weight, manage anxiety, improve their sexual drive, and even overcome a gambling addiction.

The technique works by placing the patient in a deep state of relaxation so that the "conscious mind takes a less active role, thus allowing the hypnotist to work directly with the subconscious." This condition is commonly referred to as the "trance," which is characterized by a state of heightened imagination and extreme suggestibility. For example, if the hypnotist makes a suggestion like, "Your tongue is now swollen," the patient will actually feel a sensation in his mouth, and may even have a hard time talking.

Other forms of hypnotism occur in the entertainment industry. In these situations, the hypnotist will ask for a volunteer from the audience. Once that person has been placed in a trance, the hypnotist can suggest things a person wouldn't ordinarily do, like flying around the stage like a chicken. Many hypnotists claim they could never make people do anything against their will, but this type of evidence reflects otherwise.

Another form of hypnosis is called "past life regression." In these situations the hypnotist takes the patient back in time to experience life before being "reincarnated" in his present-day body. According to one New Age practitioner, "Past life regression hypnosis is excellent for accessing the Akashic Records. Accessing that information enhances the individual to understand how we became as we are."[1]

Even though many practitioners claim to place clients in a "light or medium" trance, the hypnotherapist cannot prevent a patient from spontaneously plunging into a "danger zone," which can include hallucinations like: the patient making claims about being contacted by UFOs, abducted by space aliens, or reporting memories from past lives while living on different planets.

Perhaps the most dangerous form of hypnosis comes from a technique called "spirit guide contact." In this process the practitioner helps the patient establish and maintain regular dialog with spirit guides. According to one New Age website, the practitioner makes the following statement, "I describe precisely who these highly evolved beings are, where they live and provide dozens of exercises to communicate with them safely and effectively."[2]

For those clients who may feel a little nervous about allowing a New Age practitioner to impart suggestions into their subconscious, or inviting spirit guides into their lives, there's also a technique called self-hypnosis. In the self-hypnosis kits, tapes and CDs are provided with instructions to help people "leave their bodies and then go back to explore various elements about themselves." If that doesn't work, there are also a number of other books to create hypnotic trances in everyday conversations. By using these techniques, practitioners can get complete strangers to do anything they want. According to one man's testimony, he was able to walk into a bank, and after captivating a teller with a trance, she handed over a large sum of money without knowing what she was doing.[3]

Since many doctors and psychologists are advertising their services under the guise of "medical treatment," it makes unsuspecting Catholics think that hypnosis is safe to use. Unfortunately, what most people fail to realize is that once a person is placed in a hypnotic state, it is very easy for spirit guides, also known as fallen angels or demons, to enter into that person's life, and hinder his relationship with God.

Some Christians may argue that the Holy Spirit can also enter a person during the hypnotic state to help him overcome addictions and other

problems—but God will never violate anyone's free will. The Holy Spirit wants to enter everybody's life to help them work through problems, but this needs to occur when they are fully conscious.

In the worst-case scenario, hypnotism opens the door to demonic influence. In the best-case scenario, hypnotism is a quick-fix attempt to cover over problems that prevent a person from growing in holiness.

## Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"For this is the will of God, your sanctification."*

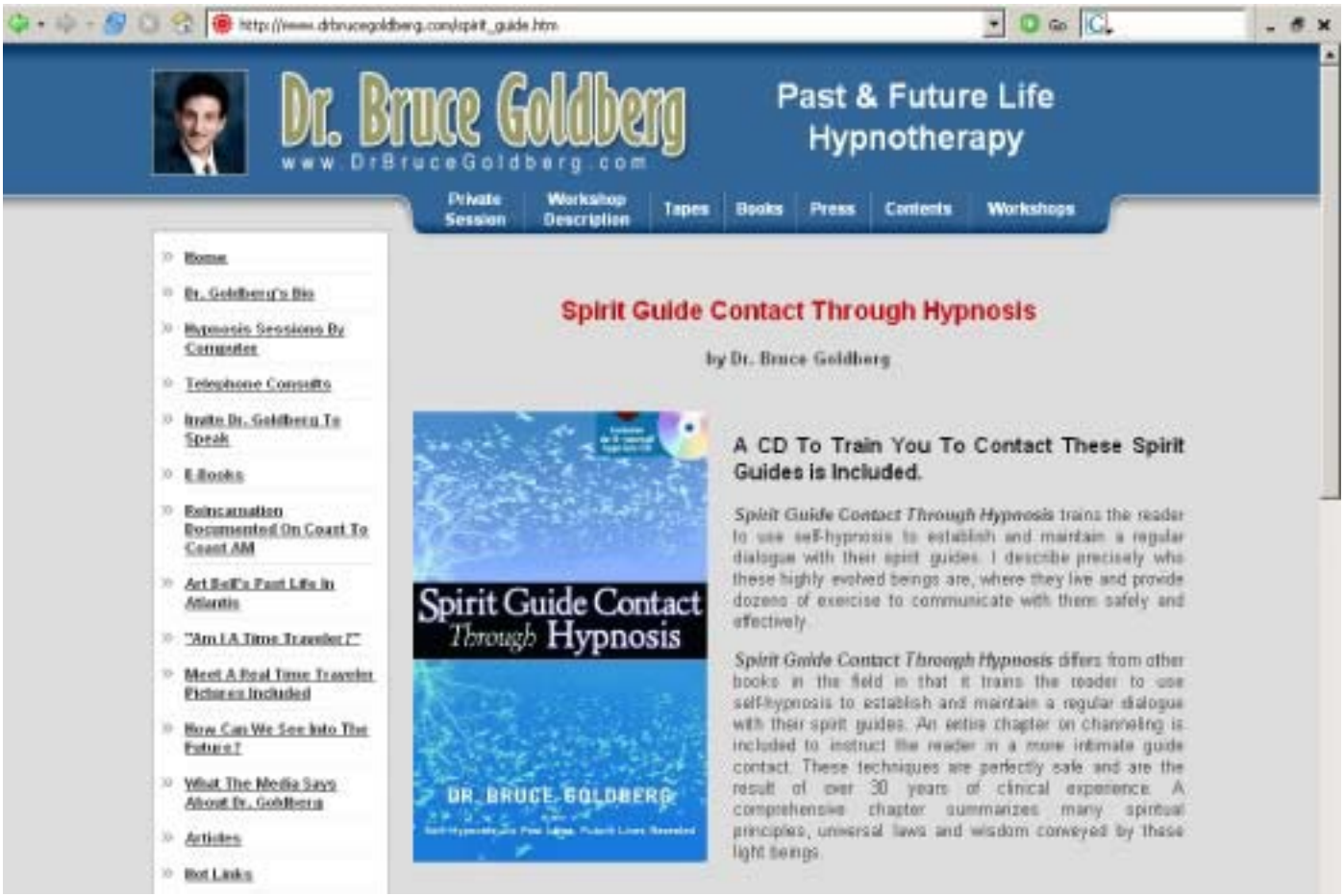
1 Thessalonians 4:3

*"Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God."*

Romans 6:12–13

*"It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature."*[4]

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 150



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# Santeria
## The Way of the Saints

Santeria began several hundred years ago when slave traders sold captive members of the Yoruba tribe to Spanish settlers in Cuba. After a Catholic priest baptized the enslaved Africans, they were expected to practice Catholicism. Instead of being obedient to the Gospel message, many of these slaves refused to give up their ancestral traditions and only pretended to follow the religion of their captors.

Since these slaves were not allowed to openly worship foreign deities, they incorporated pagan practices into the worship of Catholic saints. By developing special devotions to various saints, their captors would think they were practicing Catholicism, when in fact, they were worshiping African gods and goddesses. When the Spanish settlers noticed that a slave had developed an excessive devotion to the saints rather than to Christ, they called the practice Santeria—a word that means "the way of the saints."

To some degree, the practice of Santeria has continued to spread throughout many aspects of Catholicism. For example, in the Yoruba tradition there was one creator God called Olodumara, but this god was too busy and important to get involved with the everyday affairs of mankind, so the worshipers were forced to pay tribute to other entities called Orishas. These entities were easily converted into Catholic saints because anytime a worshiper needed a special favor, he would turn to the Orishas for help.

The Orisha called Elegua was converted into Saint Anthony because he was the owner of all open doors. In the same way that Saint Anthony can help people find lost articles, so too can Elegua open up all matters of hidden knowledge. The entity called Oggun was converted into Saint Peter because he has the right to control life and death. In the same way that Saint Peter holds the keys to the kingdom, Oggun holds similar rights in the netherworld. Another entity called Orunmila was converted into Saint Francis of Assisi because he was the only Orisha who witnessed the creation of the universe; and since Saint Francis is oftentimes depicted in nature, it seemed like a good match.[1]

Santeria worship most commonly occurs in the houses of priests where practitioners cast spells, consult oracles, and worship with a rhythmic sound and feverish dancing. Other practices include animal sacrifice and the offering of blood for the forgiveness of sins. During special ceremonies, demonic entities are allowed to take possession of the participants. This practice is called "mounting" and is similar to the demonic possession that occurs in Voodoo ceremonies.

### Scripture Passages to Set the Captives Free

*"Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools; and they exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling a mortal human being or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles."*

Romans 1:20–23

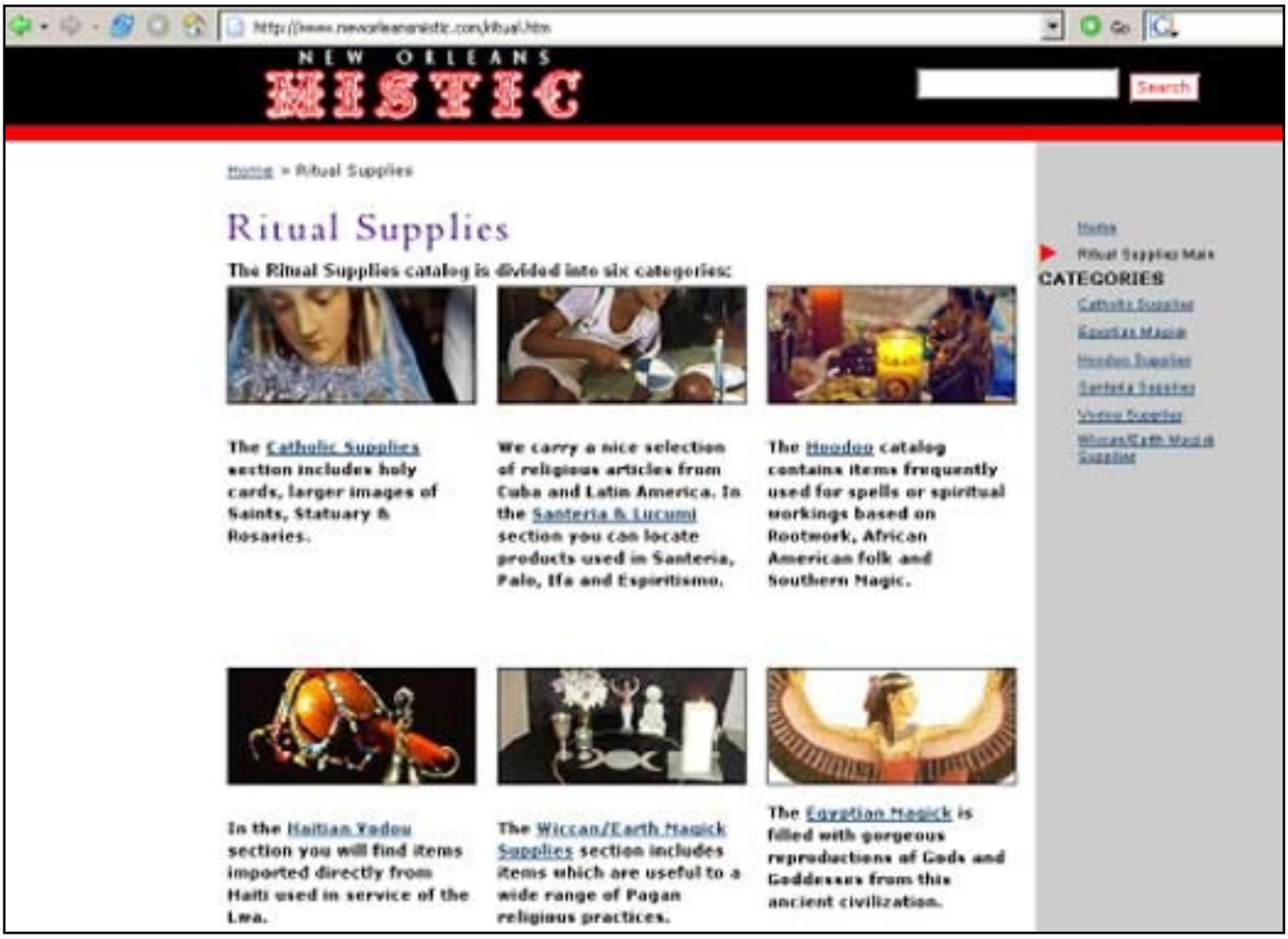
*"They rejected all the commandments of the Lord their God and made for themselves cast images of two calves; they made a sacred pole, wor-*

*shiped all the hosts of heaven, and served Baal. They made their sons and their daughters pass through fire; they used divination and augury; and they sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger."*

2 Kings 17:16–17

*"Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For any of those of the house of Israel, or of the aliens who reside in Israel, who separate themselves from me, taking their idols into their hearts and placing their iniquity as a stumbling block before them, and yet come to a prophet to inquire of me by him, I the Lord will answer them myself. I will set my face against them; I will make them a sign and a byword and cut them off from the midst of my people; and you shall know that I am the Lord."*

Ezekiel 14:6–8



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# Part II
# Apparition Sites

# New Age
## Rosaries

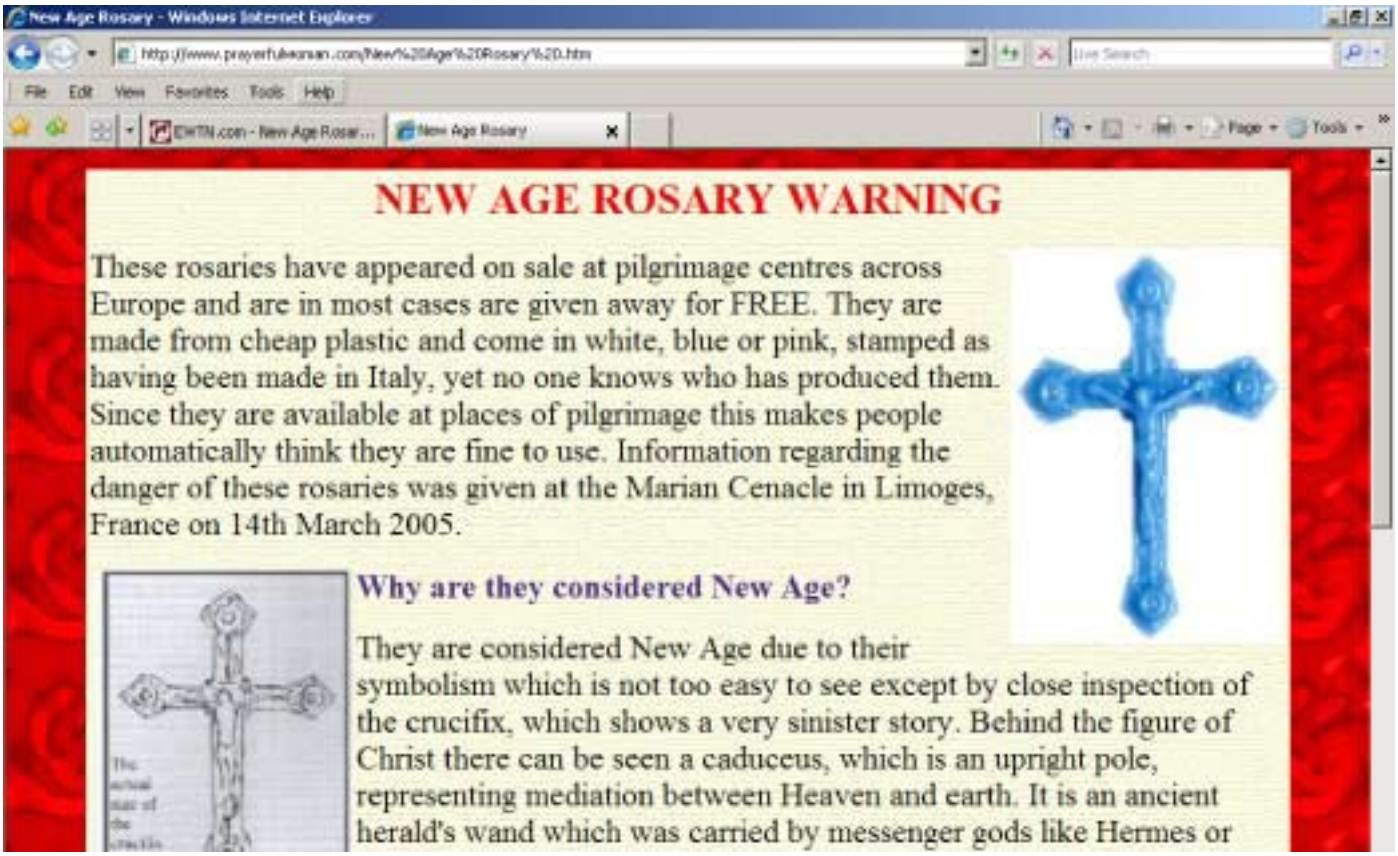
New Age Rosaries with demonic symbols have appeared at apparition sites throughout the world and in most cases are given away for free. They are made from white, pink, and blue plastic, and stamped as having been made in Italy. Since they are available at places of pilgrimage it makes Catholics automatically think they are fine to use.

These rosaries are considered New Age due to their demonic symbolism. For example, if you look closely behind the figure of Christ there is a caduceus, which is an upright pole, representing mediation between Heaven and earth. This pole is an ancient herald's wand that was carried by messenger gods like Hermes or Mercury. The rod is also a divining rod to measure the earth and its energies of power.

Satan is shown behind the figure of Christ and is depicted by a coiled serpent, which represents latent power, concealed but not yet fully manifest, a dormant power. It may also represent to Satanists that the devil is Co-Messianic, Redeemer and Mediator with Christ. The circles on the crucifix are from Egyptian Graeco-Roman, Phoenician, Baal symbols called the Pentagram, which is a major occult sign.

The pentagrams have five points, which represent spirit, fire, earth, water, and air. The pentagram at the bottom is upside down and represents the devil's goat. The four circles with dots in the center signify gold or the sun in alchemy.

Information regarding these rosaries was given at the Marian Cenacle in Limoges, France, on March 14, 2005. These warning have been listed on various Catholic sites including the following:



# Theresa Lopez
## Mother Cabrini Shrine

A local housewife named Theresa Lopez had visions of Mary and promised an apparition. Six thousand of the faithful stared up at heaven near Lookout Mountain. People thought the sun was spinning in the sky. Some of them stared directly into the blazing light.

Theresa Lopez said she saw the Virgin "wearing a gold gown . . . surrounded by pink, sparkling lights." A few others saw what appeared to be spectacular signs in the heavens, but the vast majority only saw the blue sky and stabbing sunlight.

When the day was over, one woman named Kathy left Mother Cabrini Shrine near Denver disillusioned. She had brought her two-year-old son, who is mentally and physically disabled, because she thought the Virgin would help him.

Now yellow and green dots danced before her eyes. A doctor told her that when she stared at the sun, she burned both her retinas and damaged the central line of her vision. "I go up there to pray with one disabled member of my family and come home with two," she said bitterly. "I'm done praying. In a way, I'm angry with God."[1]

Denver's Archbishop J. Francis Stafford advised Catholics to stop going to the shrine in the hope of visions. He warned about unreliable "private revelations" and appointed a committee to examine the Lopez case.

The following declaration is the result of Archbishop J. Francis Stafford's commission:

**DECLARATION CONCERNING ALLEGED APPARITIONS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT MOTHER CABRINI SHRINE AND OTHER PLACES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE**

On December 9, 1991, I appointed a commission to investigate alleged apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Mother Cabrini Shrine and other places within the Archdiocese of Denver to Theresa Antonia Lopez. On February 22, 1994, the commission completed its investigation and presented its findings to me.

As Archbishop of Denver, I have concluded that the alleged apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Theresa Antonia Lopez are devoid of any supernatural origin.

Because of my concern for the spiritual welfare of the people of God, I direct the faithful to refrain from participating in or promoting para-liturgical or liturgical services related to the alleged apparitions.

Furthermore, anyone encouraging devotion to these alleged apparitions in any way is acting contrary to my wishes as Archbishop of Denver.

It remains my constant hope that all the faithful will promote devotion to our Blessed Lady in the many forms which have been approved by the Catholic Church.

J. Francis Stafford
*Archbishop of Denver*
*March 9, 1994*

[2]

# William Kamm

## The Little Pebble —Saint Charbel Community

William Kamm was born in Cologne, West Germany, during 1950. According to published documents, William first started having mystical experiences with the Blessed Mother in 1968, at the age of eighteen. Soon after he founded the Marian Work of Atonement organization in Australia in 1970.[1]

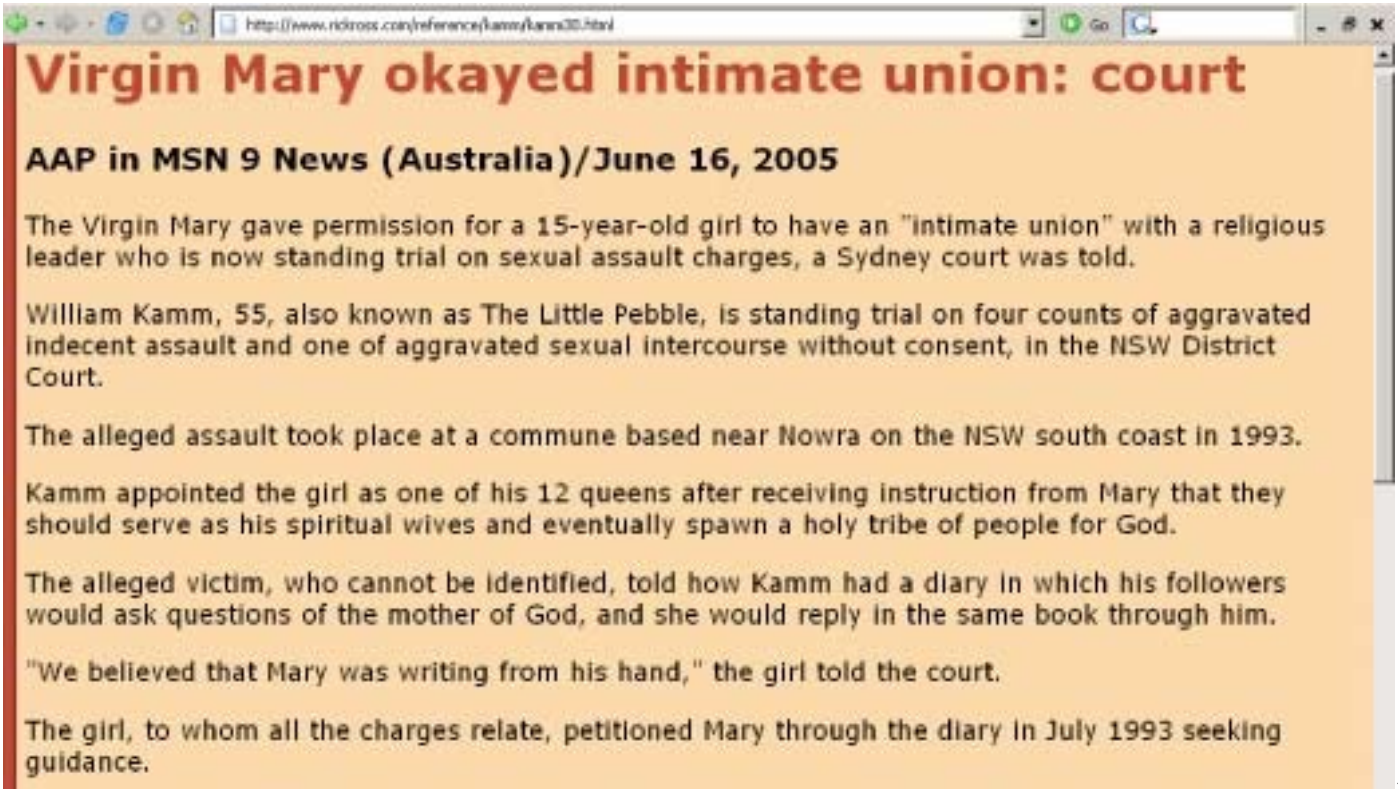
In 1982 William received the name "Little Pebble," perhaps in reference to St. Peter, The Rock upon which the Catholic Church was founded. On numerous occasions, Kamm has promoted messages suggesting he was going to be the next pope.[2]

According to the "official website for the Little Pebble," the Blessed Mother started making public apparitions to him at a site near Nowra, New South Wales, Australia. To date, there have been more than six hundred public messages given to Kamm which in turn have been circulated by more than fifty promoters throughout the world.[3]

In October 2005, William Kamm was sentenced to five years in prison for sexual attacks on a fifteen-year-old girl. The assaults occurred when the girl was living within Kamm's Order of St. Charbel Community near Nowra, New South Wales.

Kamm claims to have received advice from the Blessed Virgin Mary that the girl should be chosen as one of his 12 Queens and 72 Princesses who would all become his wives, with whom he would spawn a new human race after the world had been cleansed by an end-time disaster. Kamm tried to defend his acts of polygamy by claiming Mary had instituted him to become the "New Abraham" thus spawning a numerous people.

Apparently, the Virgin Mary gave permission to the fifteen-year-old girl to have an "intimate union" with Kamm after he appointed her as one of his queens. The young girl told the court that Kamm had a secret diary in which his followers



**Virgin Mary okayed intimate union: court**

**AAP in MSN 9 News (Australia)/June 16, 2005**

The Virgin Mary gave permission for a 15-year-old girl to have an "intimate union" with a religious leader who is now standing trial on sexual assault charges, a Sydney court was told.

William Kamm, 55, also known as The Little Pebble, is standing trial on four counts of aggravated indecent assault and one of aggravated sexual intercourse without consent, in the NSW District Court.

The alleged assault took place at a commune based near Nowra on the NSW south coast in 1993.

Kamm appointed the girl as one of his 12 queens after receiving instruction from Mary that they should serve as his spiritual wives and eventually spawn a holy tribe of people for God.

The alleged victim, who cannot be identified, told how Kamm had a diary in which his followers would ask questions of the mother of God, and she would reply in the same book through him.

"We believed that Mary was writing from his hand," the girl told the court.

The girl, to whom all the charges relate, petitioned Mary through the diary in July 1993 seeking guidance.

[4]

would ask questions from the Mother of God.

The young girl petitioned Mary through this diary in July 1993 seeking guidance. Afterward, she received instructions from Mary that she should serve as one of Kamm's spiritual wives and eventually spawn a holy tribe.[5]

After losing an appeal, Kamm has been sentenced to the maximum ten years in prison with a seven-and-a-half-year non-parole period. He will not be eligible for release until April 13, 2013.

In June 2003, the Bishop of Wollongong, Peter W. Ingham, issued a decree of excommunication for Fr. Malcolm Broussard, William Kamm, and all other members associated with the St. Charbel Community. The decree of excommunication reads as follows:

*Most Rev* ***Peter William Ingham*** DD
*Bishop of Wollongong*

**DECREE**

PWI:pac/lt/5142

*Given at Wollongong*
10 June 2003

**Fr Malcolm Broussard**

It has come to my notice that on 30 March 2003 in Bavaria, Germany, and in clear and indisputable contravention of the universal law of the Catholic Church, Fr Malcolm Broussard attempted to have himself consecrated as a Bishop.

Given the gravity of this situation and having taken advice from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I hereby decree the following:

1. The 'episcopal' ordination of Fr Broussard is a schismatic act and is not recognised by the Catholic Church.
2. Fr Broussard has, by this action, incurred an excommunication from the Catholic Church. This excommunication can be removed only by the Apostolic See.
3. All those who adhere formally to Fr Broussard's ministry in the so-called Order of St Charbel (of which Mr William Kamm is the Founder and Moderator, and Fr Broussard, the Prelate for the 'Order') and notwithstanding their awareness of this canonical measure, decide to persevere in their adherence, also place themselves outside the Catholic Church and are by that fact excommunicated.

Once again, in the spirit of Christ the Good Shepherd who seeks out those who have strayed, I urge any person who associates with Fr Broussard, or who associates with any other group or community or activity of Mr William Kamm (*aka* the Little Pebble), to seek reconciliation with the Catholic Church.

Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG

CURIA EPISCOPALIS VOLLONGONENSIS

DIOCESAN NOTARY

DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG
PO Box 1239

Email: bishop@chancery.woll.catholic.org.au
Tel: +61 2 4253 0900

[6]

# Vassula Ryden
## True Life in God

Starting at a very young age, Vassula Ryden experienced terrifying nightmares, which she attributed to Satan. Between the ages of ten and twelve, she had mystic experiences, including what she describes as a spiritual marriage to Jesus. During her teenage years, she saw on several occasions the souls of dead people surrounding her, and afterwards, she became indifferent to religious matters.[1]

Towards the end of November 1985, while living in Bangladesh, Vassula claims that an invisible being contacted her and identified itself as her "guardian angel." The entity manifested itself by moving Vassula's hand without her being able to control it, forming words and drawings. By this means, Vassula started to receive "messages" for about four to six hours per day.

Three months later, Vassula experienced a brief encounter with another being, who identified himself as "God the Father." The "guardian angel" then submitted her to a purification week, which was followed by another visit from an entity who identified himself as "Jesus." This entity also used the guided dictation of messages to communicate, calling the messages *True Life in God*. Other entities have also intervened, including the Blessed Mother, Michael the Archangel, and Saint Padre Pio.[2]

The main themes of these messages are the "abomination of desolation" in the Catholic Church, Christian unity, adhesion to Pope John Paul II, the closeness of a time of purification, and the importance of making the messages known in order to end the division among Christian denominations.

The writings, which consist of several hundred pages, have been translated and published in 40 languages and promoted throughout the world. Vassula maintains that the method in which she receives the messages is not channeling or a New Age practice known as "automatic writing," but that the messages are actually coming from heavenly sources.

### Other Warnings about Vassula Ryden's Messages

1. Bishop Maurice E. Piat, Diocese of Port-Louis, Ile Maurice—In a letter dated April 5, 2002, the Bishop warns the faithful against Mrs. Ryden's messages. He affirms that they can make one subject to serious deviations to their piousness and to their personal relationship with God. He therefore asks that Mrs. Ryden's ideas not be spread in the diocese, whether by the selling of her books or the organization of meetings near churches or inside church properties.

2. Archbishop of Kandy, Sri Lanka—Informed of a planned meeting of Vassula in his Diocese, the Archbishop took action by distributing the 1995 Notification in all his parishes and forbidding priests from attending the meetings.

3. The Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong—A few days before Vassula Ryden's visit to Hong Kong, the Diocese issued a negative declaration regarding this visit by advising the faithful not to attend her meetings. This statement was published in two of the Diocese's newspapers.

4. The Catholic Church in Scotland—A spokesman for the Catholic Church in Scotland has warned people against going to Vassula's September 11th meeting in Edinburgh. Mentioning the 1995 Notification, he said Vassula "certainly did not" operate with the approval of the Church and that "the advice to Catholics is not to attend her gatherings due to the suspect nature of her alleged revelations, which contain doctrinal errors."[3]

In 1995, the Roman Catholic Church issued warnings against the writings by publishing a Notification from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in which several negative elements and theological errors were pointed out.[4]

In January 2007, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith addressed an internal communication to all the Presidents of the Bishops' conferences around the world reconfirming the negative doctrinal judgment of the 1995 Notification regarding Mrs. Ryden's writings and advised the faithful not to participate in *True Life in God* messages, writings, or prayer groups.[5] The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's document reads as follows:

CONGREGAZIONE
PER LA DOTTRINA
DELLA FEDE

00120 Città del Vaticano
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

January 25, 2007

Prot. N. 54/92 - 24945
(Si prega citare il numero nella risposta)

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith continues to receive requests for clarification in relation to the writings and activities of Mrs Vassula Rydén. These requests address in particular the import of the *Notification* of 6 October 1995, and the criteria to be considered by the local Church in judging whether the writings of Mrs Vassula Rydén may appropriately be disseminated.

In this regard, the Congregation wishes to state the following:

1) The Notification of 1995 remains valid as a doctrinal judgment of the writings examined (see Enclosure 1).

2) Mrs Vassula Rydén, however, after dialogue with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has offered clarifications on some problematic points in her writings and on the nature of her messages which are presented not as divine revelations, but rather as her personal meditations (see Enclosure 2: Letter of 4 April 2002, published in *True Life in God*, vol. 10). From a normative point of view therefore, following the aforementioned clarifications, a case by case prudential judgment is required in view of the real possibility of the faithful being able to read the writings in the light of the said clarifications.

3) Finally, it remains inappropriate for Catholics to take part in prayer groups established by Mrs Rydén. Concerning the question of ecumenical meetings, the faithful are to follow the norms of the Ecumenical Directory, of the Code of Canon Law (canons: 215; 223, §2 and 383, §3) and of Diocesan Ordinaries.

Thanking you for your attention and with sentiments of esteem, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

William Card. Levada

William Cardinal **LEVADA**
*Prefect*

(2 Enclosures)

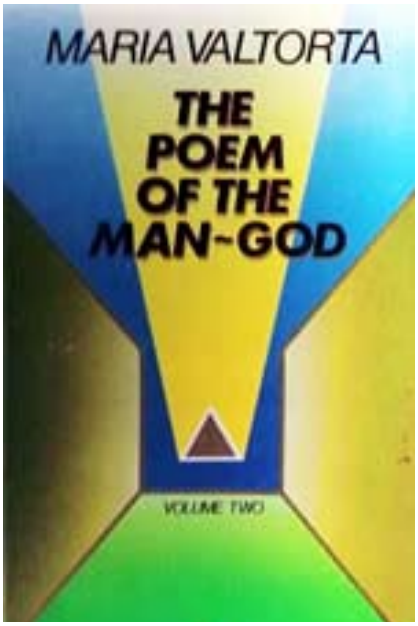
**To the Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops**
**Presidents of Bishops Conferences**

[6]

# Maria Valtorta

## *The Poem of the Man-God*

Maria Valtorta was born on March 14, 1897, in Caserta, Italy. After suffering an abusive childhood, which her biography describes as "brushing with death during her birth, Maria remained an only child, having as wet-nurse a wretched mercenary." Her biography continues to describe the rest of her childhood by saying, "Due to the habitual despotic attitude of her mother, to which her father responded with meek docility, Maria was painfully obliged to leave her home, in March 1909, at twelve years of age to go to a boarding school."[1]




On January 28, 1925, Maria offered herself as a "victim soul" to the Merciful Love and renewed her vows to suffer every day thereafter. She later offered her life as a "victim soul" to the Divine Justice, and soon she found herself unable to walk without experiencing "extraordinary fatigue." This condition continued until 1933 when she was unable to leave her house, and a year later, unable to leave her bed. During this time, Maria wrote more than fifteen thousand pages that were dictated to her by entities calling themselves Jesus and Mary.[2]

According to an article by Father Mitch Pacwa, four years after Maria received her dictations, she delivered more than ten thousand handwritten pages to her spiritual director, Father Romuald Migliorini, O.S.M. A year later, Father Migliorini along with another priest, Father Corrado Berti, O.S.M., scheduled a private audience with Pope Pius XII to seek his counsel concerning Maria's private revelations.[3]

After the meeting, Father Berti stood in Saint Peter's Square and wrote down Pope Pius's words as he remembered them: "Publish this work as it is. There is no need to give an opinion about its origin, whether it be extraordinary or not. Whoever reads it, will understand. One hears of many visions and revelations. I will not say they are all authentic, but there are some of which it could be said that they are."

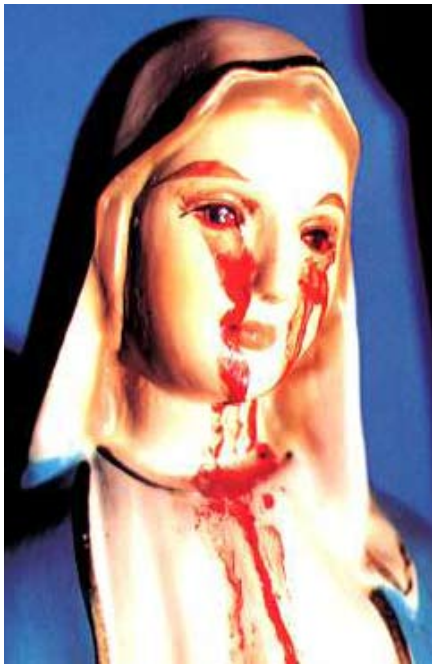
Confident that he had obtained the Vatican's approval for publication, Father Berti delivered the manuscript to the Vatican press. In 1949, however, two commissioners from the Holy Office, Monsignor Giovanni Pepe and Father Berruti, O.P., condemned the work and ordered Father Berti to sign an agreement not to publish it. Instead of surrendering the copies as requested, Father Berti returned the original manuscript to Maria. About three years later, Father Berti violated the signed agreement by presenting the material to another publisher, Emiliano Pisani. Although the new publisher was fully aware of the Holy Office's opposition, they printed the first volume in 1956, and produced a new volume each year until 1959.

After the fourth volume appeared, the Holy Office examined *The Poem of the Man-God* and condemned it, recommending that it be placed on the Index of Forbidden Books on December 16, 1959. The condemnation was signed by Pope John XXIII and published in *L'Osservatore Romano* on January 6, 1969, along with an article entitled "A Badly Fictionalized Life of Jesus."

*The Poem of the Man-God* is now available in twelve languages and is being promoted at unapproved apparition sites all over the world as the "bible" of the modern visionary movement.

# Julia Kim
## Mary's Ark of Salvation

Julia Kim was born in Naju, Korea, in 1947. After marrying her husband, Julio Kim, and having her second child, her health began to deteriorate. During her third pregnancy, she visited a doctor and was informed that the baby inside her womb was dead, and that she needed surgery. In her testimony Julia describes the situation as follows, "The doctor then asked my husband if he wanted me to live or die. I was tied to the surgery table and was operated on. It was the beginning of my sufferings."[1]



After her third child was born, Julia became seriously ill with a fever and more abdominal pains. She was diagnosed with inflammation of the pelvis, appendicitis, pregnancy outside the womb, and a fever. After another surgery was performed, Julia continued suffering extreme pain. In her testimony she writes, "About a month after the surgery something was coming out together with blood and pus from where the surgery was done. Rosa, my eldest daughter, was crying loudly and screamed. 'Mommy! Your intestines! What should we do?' We embraced each other and cried. We found out that it was the gauze that doctors forgot to remove during the surgery."

As Julia's pain and suffering continued to escalate for several more years, she visited even more doctors and eventually was diagnosed with cancer. This time the news was too much for her to endure. In a desire to end her life by committing suicide, Julia prepared cyanide, and wrote several good-bye letters to her mother, husband, four children, and whoever might be her husband's future wife.[2]

Before Julia could fulfill her death wish, her husband took her to a Catholic priest. After hearing Julia's story, the priest consoled her by saying that her sufferings were blessings from God. Afterwards, Julia felt a warm sensation entering her body and soon after she wanted to "live a life of suffering" for the Lord.

After taking vows of suffering, Julia began to receive extreme pain, as well as miraculous signs and wonders. For example, during 1985 Julia's statue of Mary started shedding tears of blood. And in 1995, when Julia was in the process of receiving Holy Communion at an outdoor Mass celebrated near Naju, the Consecrated Host began bleeding in her mouth.[3]

According to witnesses, the host changed character, transforming itself into what appeared to be a pulsating, living piece of flesh. Witnesses stated that they detected the strong odor of blood in the air when this transformation took place. Upon further inspection of the photographs and video that were taken, it appeared that the flesh was a living, beating heart.

In 1998, Archbishop Victorinus Kong-Hee Youn of the Archdiocese of Kwangju made an official announcement that Julia Kim's messages "lacked genuineness and credibility." He said, "the phenomena alleged to be Eucharistic miracles were contradictory to the doctrine of the Catholic Church," and "various strange phenomena arising from the statue of the Blessed Mother and Julia's body produced no evidence that could prove that they were truly supernatural and thus from God."[4] A statement from Archbishop Andrew Choi Chang-mou of Kwangju reads as follows:

## KOREA Archbishop Choi of Kwangju Issues Ultimatum To 'Miracle' Performer

SEOUL (UCAN) – The head of Korea's Catholic Church has warned a Catholic woman to stop propagating what she claims are private Marian revelations and has directed Catholics not to heed miracles without Church confirmation.

In yet another pastoral directive issued on May 5, Archbishop Andrew Choi Chang-mou of Kwangju, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, said that Julia Youn Hong-sun must not insist on her divine revelations from a Marian statue and that her followers must obey the Church or face censure.

The directive urges Catholics at the alleged Marian miracle site to return to "normal and ordinary Church life" because staying there would "insult" the Church. "I make it clear that any clergy or Religious from any diocese or any country who participates in or presides at liturgical ceremonies at the Marian Shrine or Youn's chapel without permission from the Archbishop of Kwangju is destroying the universal and local Church," Archbishop Choi said.

He urged the Catholics to live their faith in unity and harmony, and to obey their bishop, a successor of the apostles and pastor of their local Church.

The archbishop noted that from Jan. 1, 1998, to April 3, 2005, he and his predecessor issued instructions on the matter three times, but Youn and her followers disobeyed and even challenged the Church by continuing to insist on "private revelations" or "miracles." He said "this clearly shows they (do not) have any intention to maintain normal relations with the universal Church."

Archbishop Choi also pointed out in his directive that between March and August 2003, he directly met Youn and her husband three times at a parish, in a diocesan office and even visited them to discuss the matter. He stressed that his predecessor, retired Archbishop Victorinus Youn Kong-hi, had the agreement of the Holy See and the bishops' conference when he issued a pastoral directive concerning Julia Youn on Jan. 1, 1998.

Father Gabriel Park Chul-soo, the chancellor of Kwangju archdiocese, told UCA News on May 10 that the two earlier pastoral directives did not work, so the third one is a final chance for Youn and her followers to comply. "This pastoral instruction is similar to the previous ones in content but it is more like an ultimatum," he asserted. "If they oppose it again, they can never take part in liturgical ceremonies, including Mass, as Catholics."

If Youn and her followers again ignore or object to the Church's official instruction, Father Park added, they will no longer be considered Catholics but followers of some sort of folk religion.

Julia Youn insists that she has received "private revelations" through her statue of Mary in Naju, 25 kilometers south of Kwangju, ever since it "started weeping" on Jun. 30, 1985. Since then, many Catholics, including several local and foreign bishops, have visited Naju. According to an Internet website devoted to the place (http://www.najumary.or.kr/grace), after Archbishop Youn issued his first directive, two bishops from Indonesia and the Philippines visited there in 2001-2002.

Youn, 57-year-old mother of four, insists that her weeping statue of Mary has even shed tears of blood and fragrant oil, and given her revelations, and that the Host fell "from heaven" several times when visiting bishops and her group were at Mass in her private chapel.

Youn and her group further claim that the Eucharist changed into a lump of bloody flesh in her mouth several times, including once in 1995 when Pope John Paul II gave her the Eucharist at the Vatican. At that time, the pope saw it but said nothing, the Naju website maintains.

Archbishop Choi warns that all who fail to follow his pastoral directive must be considered as intending to oppose the magisterium -- the Catholic Church's authority and power to teach true doctrine by divine guidance.

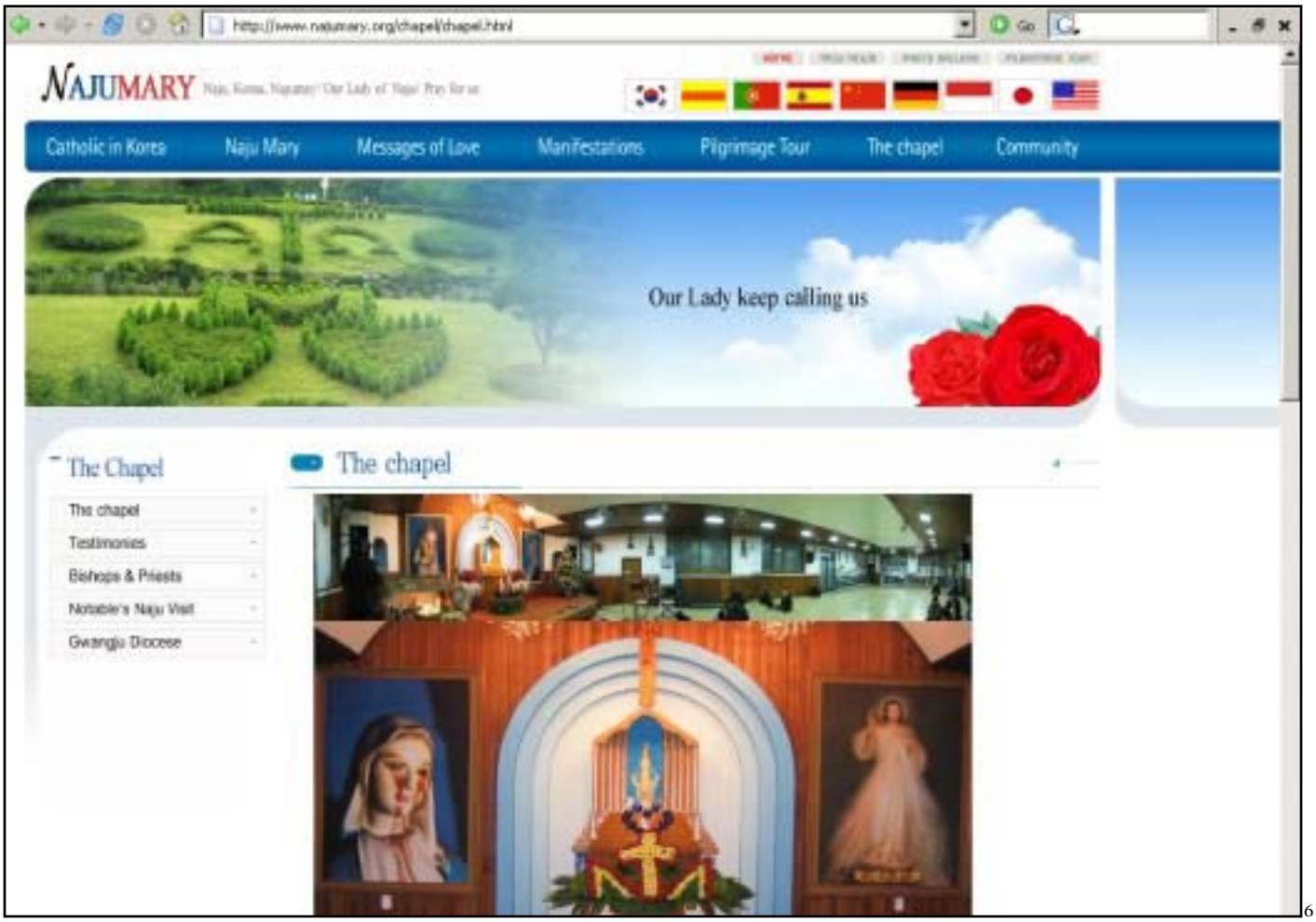
In a letter published on May 24, 2001, the archbishop urged Catholics to “obey the magisterium,” and asked Youn and her volunteers not to propagate the so-called miracles concerning her and the Marian statue.

However, 60-year-old Rubino Park Yeon-hun, Youn’s manager, disagrees with the instruction issued by Archbishop Youn and Archbishop Choi. Park says, “For us, it is basically invalid because the archdiocese has never investigated our case objectively and failed to bear any witness to its argument.”

Park, who has been following Youn for 20 years, told UCA News on May 10: “We cannot follow the pastoral directive because its argument and explanation of the miracle phenomenon of the Eucharist is not true. Since we are Catholics who seek truth, we cannot follow the wrong instruction.”

According to him, an average of about 4,000-5,000 people from within the country and abroad visit Julia Youn every month, “though they already know about the instruction.” Park also maintains that they visit “just because they know and experience what the truth is here. They are the real faithful.”

On Jan. 1, 1998, Archbishop Youn declared that visions and various strange phenomenon emanating from Youn’s body and the statue of the Blessed Mother “produce no evidence which proves they are truly supernatural and thus from God.” He thereby directed that publication or dissemination of material on the Naju events was “officially forbidden,” and called on Catholics to refrain from reading such material.[5]



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# Mary & the New Age
## Movement — Part I

From the Christian perspective, there are only two spiritual forces at work in the world—good and evil. When a New Age practitioner invokes blessings from a spirit guide, that person is either interacting with God, his angels or saints, or is dealing with fallen angels, known as demons.

Because the vast majority of the New Age movement is focused on the worship of the feminine goddess, many fallen angels have been imitating the Blessed Mother. By doing so, these demonic entities are able to divert healthy devotions away from Mary, and place it on themselves.

Not only do thousands of New Age practitioners flock to apparition sites seeking an encounter with the Virgin Goddess, but Marian worship, including the Rosary, is widely accepted and promoted within the New Age movement. For example, on one popular metaphysical site, a spiritual entity who has identified herself as Mary, made the following statement:

"I was known then as Mary, the mother of Jesus. And after that lifetime as Mary, I did indeed win my permanent ascension to the spiritual realm. Thus, I am today an ascended being, and I have chosen to remain with Earth in order to serve as a teacher, as a guardian, as a guide for you and those of your brothers and sisters who have not yet escaped the human prison.

"Since my ascension I have not stood still. I have risen higher in the ranks here in Heaven, for truly, as Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many mansions.' There are levels of attainment even in the Heaven world, and since my ascension I have attained a greater understanding, internalization and oneness with the consciousness and Being of the Mother aspect of God. And thus I am today the representative of the Divine Mother for planet Earth."[1]

According to this website, this spiritual entity has been advising her followers to pray the Rosary for the following reasons: "It benefits you personally and it benefits the planet. Giving a rosary invokes spiritual energy, or light, that streams through your consciousness as you are saying the words. The energy is directed into the specific conditions—in your own psyche and situation and in the collective consciousness and world affairs—where it begins to consume all opposition to the highest potential for every situation."[2]

There are more than thirty different New Age Rosaries listed on this site to help people with a variety of problems. For example, one Rosary is designed to bless the earth and prevent earthquakes. Mary describes this Rosary as follows:

"I desire to bring you another tool that can be the very stopgap measure that will help the Earth rise without cracking. That tool is the Miracle Rosary that I am releasing today through this messenger. I encourage all those, who have ears to hear, to use this rosary, if possible on a daily basis.

"If only a few people would use this tool diligently and consistently, I can assure you that the potential for massive earthquakes in the year 2004 can be greatly mitigated. In fact, if a critical mass of people were to embrace this rosary, the Earth's crust could be liquefied, so that hardly any earthquakes would reach the surface and cause it to crack, thereby causing devastation and loss of life."[3]

The prayers of the Miracle Rosary read as follows:

**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father-Mother God who is within all life, We honor your Presence, the I AM, within us. We accept your kingdom manifest on Earth

through us. We accept our responsibility to manifest your will on Earth, as it is manifest in Heaven…

**Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, one with Grace, the Lord is with us through you. Blessed are we by your miracle Grace, and by the miracle love of your son, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of Miracles, we surrender our fears, now and forever. We accept God's unconditional love, and see the Miracle Kingdom manifest on Earth.

**Sealing of the Rosary**

I accept the infinite peace of the Divine Mother. I choose to abide in that peace always, and I accept the perfect love of the Divine Mother. I accept that her love consumes all my fears. I accept that I am the Living Christ in embodiment, and I vow to be all that I am in God and more.[4]

[5]

# Mary & The New Age
## Movement — Part II

Elizabeth Clare Prophet is a world-renowned New Age practitioner. Her books have been translated into more than twenty languages and sold throughout the world. Some of her titles include, *Karma and Reincarnation*, *Soul Mates and Twin Flames*, and *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord: New Age Rosary and New Age Teachings of Mother Mary.*[1]

In a book entitled *Inner Perspectives*, Elizabeth makes a compelling appeal for her readers to contact the Ascended Masters. She describes her own experience of contacting the Ascended Masters as follows: "I knew Jesus as the living master of my life, and I understood him to be the Saviour and the open door for the soul's reunion with God."[2]

From the Christian perspective, it would sound like Elizabeth knows Jesus as her Lord and Savior, but she goes on to describe how she was also seeking a spiritual connection with Saint Germain. Who is Saint Germain? According to Elizabeth, "Saint Germain is the Ascended Master who is the chohan of the seventh ray of freedom. He is the master of the Aquarian age just as Jesus was the master of the Piscean age."[3]

Elizabeth describes her encounter with the Ascended Masters by saying, "And so it was with Jesus and Saint Germain at the forefront of my consciousness that I was pursuing the inner walk with God. Yet finally at the conclusion of my five-year search, it was neither of these who came to me but it was in fact the Ascended Master El Morya. El Morya was to be my guru and the one who would train me to be the messenger for the Ascended Masters."[4]

In a chapter entitled "God as Mother," Elizabeth describes her journey by saying, "Since I was not raised Catholic, I did not have the understanding of the devotion to Mary and so I sought this in later years.[5] I saw Mary as the instrument of God as Mother and I began to meditate on that Mother energy. I came to realize that the Mother energy is really a flame. I began to wonder how this energy could be unlocked, and I thought to myself that this energy truly must be in polarity with God as Father."[6]

In another chapter entitled "The Divine Mother," Elizabeth continues describing her conversion experience by saying, "I can remember discovering Mother Mary when I was in college in Boston. Having been brought up outside the Catholic faith, I was alienated from Mary.[7] I began to see, then, that Mother Mary was not merely an exalted being, high and seemingly apart from us, but a friend who walks with us every day. From that moment on, I knew that Mother Mary was a part of my life and, indeed, that I had come to be her instrument to give her teachings to the world and to convey her understanding of our true role."[8]

"After many years had passed, Mother Mary appeared to me one fall morning in 1972 in the prayer tower of our retreat in Colorado Springs and she said: I want to give you a ritual of the rosary for sons and daughters of God. It is to be a scriptural rosary for those who adhere to the true teachings of Christ as taught by the Ascended Masters. This rosary will be for the bringing in of the golden age."[9]

The rest of the chapter is strategically written, in that it is able to relate very well to a Catholic audience. After Elizabeth describes the scriptural rosary, she continues persuading her readers into what New Age practitioners would consider deeper forms of "spiritual enlightenment."

In the chapter entitled "God as Mother," Elizabeth describes the concept of Mary as the "Bride of the Holy Spirit." This concept would seem to line up perfectly with the fifth Marian Dogma that is currently being promoted within the Catholic Church. Not only is there a growing number of New Age books promoting the worship of Mary, Isis, and the Queen of Heaven, but there are also hundreds of other Gnostic titles that are being published every year under the guise of orthodox Christianity.

## Other New Age Books about Mary

***Two Marys:*** *The Hidden History of the Mother & Wife of Jesus*
by Sylvia Browne ISBN: 978-15988751-3-3

"No conversation about Jesus Christ is complete without a discussion of the two Marys, his mother and his wife. Now, from her unique perspective as someone familiar with this world and the next, America's leading psychic explores unanswered questions about the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene. Drawing on her relationship with her spirit guide and the years she has spent studying controversial Gnostic texts, Sylvia Browne continues the journey she began with The Mystical Life of Jesus."

***Jesus and the Lost Goddess:*** *The Secret Teachings of the Original Christians*
by Timothy Freke and Peter Grandy ISBN: 978-14000459-4-5

***Invoking Mary Magdalene:*** *Accessing the Wisdom of the Divine Feminine*
by Siobhan Houston ISBN: 978-15917942-2-6

***The Gospels of Mary:*** *The Secret Tradition of Mary Magdalene, the Companion of Jesus*
by Marvin Meyer ISBN: 978-14304370-1-7

***The Moon Under Her Feet:*** *The Story of Mary Magdalene in the Service of the Great Mother*
by Clysta Kinstler ISBN: 978-00625049-7-5

***Mary Magdalene:*** *Lost Goddess, Lost Gospels*
by Jan McDonald ISBN: 978-18616325-2-4

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# Dr. Mary Jane Even

## Disciples of the Latter Times

Dr. Mary Jane Even from Lincoln, Nebraska, has been reporting "intellectual locutions" from the Virgin Mary since 1992. Her messages center on end-time chastisements, which she describes as the "Great Warning." According to her messages, the Holy Father will be forced to flee from the Vatican, an anti-pope will be elected, and the Seat of Saint Peter will be moved to Jerusalem. Soon afterward, a great war will break out, destroying most of the planet's population, whereupon all the world's economies will collapse.[1]

On January 1, 1997, the spiritual entity that has been delivering the messages to Dr. Mary Jane predicted "that a meteor would strike the earth first with its tail touching parts of the earth, and then the full impact of the meteor will touch down in an area in the Western Hemisphere of the planet."[2] The effects of the meteor's impact are described as follows: "A cloud of dust so great that it will block the sun and all the earth shall become as night. The dust from the meteor shower shall bathe the earth, leaving dirt everywhere and burn the land and the skin. The vegetation shall die and those caught outside will die of these burns. Animals shall suffer illnesses and need to be destroyed. What you can then expect will be most dangerous. Due to the extremely flammable nature of this dust cloud and its dangerous toxic gases, many homes shall catch fire and be destroyed. And yet this is only the beginning, for more dramatic events will occur."[3]

After everyone's house burns to the ground from cosmic meteor dust, the spiritual entity that has been delivering the messages to Dr. Mary Jane describes the end of the world as follows, "Due to the extreme impact of the meteor on your planet, there will be produced the greatest of all earthquakes. This earthquake shall produce great fissures in the planet's top layer, producing large cracks and sinkholes into which whole cities shall disappear." After the earthquake, there will be three days of darkness. "The three days of darkness is the nuclear war and world-wide conflict by all countries having nuclear missiles. Everyone will be shooting missiles at other countries, in retaliation."[4]

To help Catholics prepare for the end of the world, Dr. Mary Jane has been advising the faithful to stock up on canned goods. In a letter posted on the Internet one woman has described the fruits of Dr. Mary Jane's ministry efforts as follows: "My in-laws are getting tons of literature from (and sending money to) this person in Nebraska, and they now believe that the next pope is going to actually be the 'Anti-Pope' and will be working with the Anti-Christ to bring about the end of the world in a matter of months. The woman running this group has got them buying bizarre supplies (everything from hard candy to 'Urgent Bee Pollen' to canned corned beef), boarding up the house and heaven knows what else. I'm concerned that this person is a) bilking them out of their money, b) preying on the old and weak-minded, and c) going to incite them into some kind of action that may not be beneficial to them or the world at large. I'm becoming very frightened by their behavior."[5]

The Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, has answered questions concerning the revelations of Mary Jane Even on their website and has issued the following conclusions:

**In your diocese a woman named Mary Jane Even claims to be receiving supernatural locutions and revelations. Does the Diocese have anything to say about this matter?**

The Diocese of Lincoln has a clear statement about this matter and a copy of this statement can be obtained by writing or calling the Chancery office. A diocesan commission has carefully examined the claims of Mary Jane Even and concluded that there is nothing supernatural about her locutions and revelations. They are sometimes far-fetched and even contain doctrinal error. No belief should be placed in them or in her.[6]

**Would it be a sin to believe in or support the visions and locutions of Mary Jane Even?**

It is difficult to see how sin, even serious sin, could be avoided in such belief and support. Her alleged "visions and locutions" have been determined by Church authorities to be totally devoid of any supernatural character. Some of the doctrines she teaches are clearly false. Therefore, supporting or believing her could involve spreading religious error. Sometimes credulous people who believe her have suffered severe hardships for themselves and their families, by moving to "safe havens" at enormous financial and personal loss. Her supporters thus may have grave sins of injustice on their consciences because of this. Also, she purports to foretell the future. Participating or involvement in fortune telling, with any measure of belief, is always sinful. Sometimes serious private "revelations" are due to fraud or hallucinations. But sometimes they are due to demonic forces.[7]

DIOCESAN CHANCERY

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Diocese of Lincoln

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Conclusion Of The Diocesan Commission Established
To Study The Alleged Locutions Of
Mary Jane Even

A Diocesan Commission was established to study and evaluate the case of Mary Jane Even and the alleged "intellectual locutions" she claims to be experiencing as communications from Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

After serious investigation and consultation, it is the considered conclusion of the Diocesan Commission that there is no evidence to support the claim that said "intellectual locutions" are of supernatural origin. They should not be accepted as authentic private revelations.

Furthermore, given the eccentric and "far-fetched" nature of some of the materials in her writings, as well as the many internal contradictions and errors contained therein, the Diocesan Commission would warn potential readers about the writings of Mary Jane Even purporting to report said "locutions." These writings provide a misleading distraction to those sincerely seeking a genuine and authentic Catholic spiritual life and are certainly capable of causing misunderstanding and harm.

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# Mary Ann Van Hoof
## Necedah, Wisconsin

Mary Ann Van Hoof started her career in spiritualism as a medium by practicing spirit guide channeling with the Hungarian gypsies. She came to America with her mother Elizabeth Bieber who also practiced witchcraft with the gypsies. After relocating to Wisconsin, both Mary Ann and her mother attended the Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp, whose members have been practicing psychic readings, spirit guide channeling, and other New Age procedures since its inception.[1]

Before Mary Ann started reporting claims that the Virgin Mary had been making appearances, the only tourists that visited Necedah were hunters and fishermen. Because of the sandy soil that made it difficult to grow crops, and the lack of industry that was necessary to fuel the economy, this isolated central Wisconsin village of seven hundred people was considered a dying community, according to many of its residents. "What happened here could only happen in a small secluded place," said one of the town's residents. "When people are poor and their town is dying, they're more vulnerable and willing to tolerate someone's claims, no matter how ludicrous, if it looks like a way to turn things around."[2]

Apparently, Mary Ann had been promising the news media that the Blessed Mother was going to make an appearance on August 15, 1950, to provide another "Miracle of the Sun." After many prominent newspapers and magazines featured the story, an estimated 100,000 people flocked to Necedah. As the great multitude of bystanders began to stare at the sky, some claimed to see the sun spinning and changing colors, while others reported their Rosaries turning a golden color.

This occurrence soon gave birth to a multi-million-dollar industry. Mary Ann began pointing out the Blessed Mother's appearances in the trees, on fence posts, lawn furniture, and every other conceivable place, while her followers began buying land and building homes. Apparently, the Virgin Mary had promised that anyone living within a five miles radius of Van Hoof's farm would be spared on the great day of chastisement. Van Hoof's followers also bought a print shop and started publishing the messages.

At first the messages called for a return to personal piety, praying the Rosary and devotions to Mary, but they gradually became more political and apocalyptic in nature. Many of the messages contained emotionally charged language condemning the Catholic Church. The spiritual entity who had been delivering the messages said that "30,000 priests in the United States were planted communist spies, and that the US government had been infiltrated by a cunning plot to corrupt the 'true way,' and that Vatican II was false and should not be obeyed."[3]

Although Van Hoof's followers appeared to represent just another Catholic movement devoted to the Virgin Mary, it quickly developed into what investigations by Church officials and news media determined to be a cult that pitted one neighbor against another, split families apart, and divided Necedah's Catholic parish.

"When you claim to be speaking for the Blessed Mother, you wield an enormous amount of power," said Reverend Michael Mertens, pastor of Necedah's Catholic parish. "A lot of good people got sucked into this because the evil was disguised by a call for prayer and devotions common to traditional Catholics. On the surface, it seemed harmless. Underneath, it was a terrible case of mind control."[4]

On June 17, 1955, John P. Treacy, the Bishop of La Crosse, declared that "all claims regarding supernatural revelations and visions made by the aforementioned Mrs. Van Hoof are false. Furthermore, all public and private religious worship connected with these false claims is prohibited at Necedah, Wisconsin."[5]

On March 29, 1975, Bishop Frederick W. Freking excommunicated and refused the sacraments to anyone who attended, participated in,

approved of, associated with, or contributed to anything associated with Necedah, including pageants, prayer meetings, devotions, venerations, visits, meetings, classes, secret meetings, séances, movies, books, or anything else, whether at the shrine itself or away from it. Mary Ann responded by bringing in her own bishop.

On May 28, 1979, a self-proclaimed bishop from an "Old Catholic Order" came to reside at the shrine. He "lifted" all the interdicts and started offering the Latin Mass, but a year later, he denounced Van Hoof and her messages as falsehoods and left the group. A second such bishop, Frank Dibenedetto, replaced him until May 1983. He too left the group and denounced Van Hoof as a fraud.[6]

The following letter was issued by the Diocese of La Crosse concerning the shrine at Necedah:

Diocese of La Crosse

Office of the Chancery
Diocesan Archives

March 12, 2008

Thank you for your inquiry about the current status of the shrine at Necedah. This shrine was built on a spot where it was claimed that the Blessed Mother appeared to Mrs. Mary Ann Van Hoof beginning in the 1950's. After a thorough investigation by Church authorities, it was determined that no such apparitions actually occurred. Church officials ordered the shrine to be closed. In disobedience to Church authority, the promoters of the shrine continued to operate it and to build it. The matter was investigated again in the 1970's and in 1975 the Bishop of La Crosse placed seven principal promoters of the shrine under the penalty of interdict, which forbids their participation in the sacraments. Throughout its history the shrine has refused to submit to legitimate Church authority. Many times services were held there by so-called "priests" and "bishops" who were not legitimate Catholic priests or bishops, some of whom had never even been ordained. The shrine has been a gathering place for dissidents and religious fanatics of every sort. It is the wish of the Bishop of La Crosse that the shrine neither be visited nor supported in any way.

There are today a number of "priests" at Necedah who either are under ecclesiastical censure or who have never had any legitimate claim to priestly status in the Catholic Church. Some of these have held services at the shrine and some have not. No faithful Catholic, however, may licitly receive the sacraments from any priest not in good standing with the Catholic Church and recognized as such by the local bishop.

One notable individual is Father Hector Buldoc. Hector Buldoc was suspended by Bishop John J. Paul in 1989 from performing any and all priestly functions within the Diocese of La Crosse and throughout the entire Roman Catholic Church pursuant to canons 1333 and 1351 of the *Code of Canon Law*. The Holy See confirmed this action of Bishop Paul at the same time. Father Bolduc is not recognized as a Roman Catholic priest.

I am enclosing copies of some documents and articles that I hope will be of help to you. Thank you for taking the time to inquire about the shrine at Necedah.

May God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Benedict T. Nguyen, J.C.L.
*Chancellor*

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# Archangel Uriel
## The Ascended Masters

One day a very nice lady contacted our ministry team seeking help. Through Sandie Lee Bohlig's[1] Meet Your Angels classes, she learned to verbally/mentally communicate with Archangel Uriel. She was now experiencing severe demonic attacks. She described her situation as follows:

"What I have experienced in the last couple of years no human being should go through. I am under attack 24 hours a day. The physical attacks are manifested in my body, so I can hardly walk because I am shaking so bad. Sometimes I can feel the entity's heartbeat on top of my own.

"I've experienced energy that burns like fire, and other horrible types of entities. I can tell them apart because of the differences in how they feel. The Archangel Uriel has taught me, through Sandie Lee Bohlig, how to fight them off by commanding in the name of God our Heavenly Father, and in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, be gone!

"This is done in conjunction with forcefully spraying holy water to break up the force field that they put around themselves. I have experienced demons, fallen archangels, and energy downloads into my back that are almost unbearable, and other miseries. I have become so attuned to their energy presence that I get a jolt through my body when I kill one with my diamond cross and the assistance of the Archangel Uriel, who helps me with the exorcisms."

Even though it may appear that Archangel Uriel is a good and friendly angel, contacting this entity was the source of this young woman's attack. In section 2116, the Catechism of the Catholic Church warns the faithful about seeking oracles from the dead, communication with spirit guides, consulting horoscopes, palm readings, and trying to interpret omens, but the practice is all too commonly observed under the pretext of "praying to the saints."

For more then a century, many Catholics have been encouraged to seek out "special friendships" with one of the saints. In the New Age movement, this practice is called channeling messages from one of the Ascended Masters. The New Age list of Ascended Masters includes Padre Pio, John Paul II, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Germain, Archangel Michael, Mary, and many other popular Catholic saints.

On the Angel Mystics website, one well-known physic is advertising her services by saying, "I connect quickly and allow your team of angels, Archangels, Ascended Masters and loved ones to communicate by visions, voice, automatic writing, pendulum, and touch, to bring loving messages for you."

This physic has been advertising her services to unsuspecting Catholics by saying, "After a near-death experience at age 14, I began to easily see, hear, and feel my spiritual companions. Over the last 15 years, I've met with hundreds of people like you, and together we have created transformational private sessions connecting with the angels, Archangels, Ascended Masters and loved ones who are assisting us on earth.

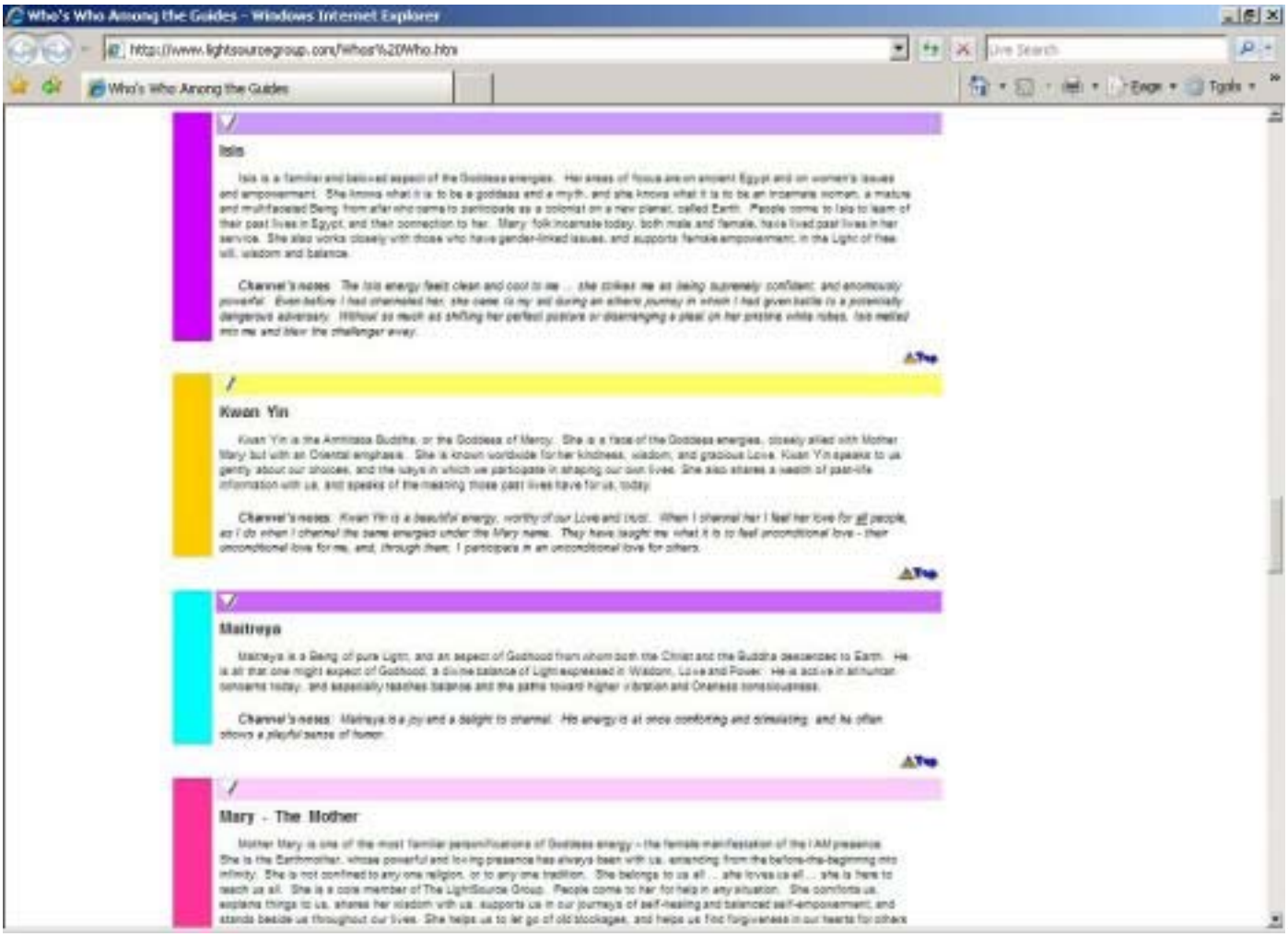
"I will channel personalized messages for you from your guardian angels and from any of the Archangels working with you, such as Archangel Michael, Archangel Gabriel, Archangel Raphael, Archangel Uriel, or other angels that would like to communicate. I also will channel the Ascended Masters working with you at this time, such as Sananda, Saint Germain, Kuthumi, Sanat Kumara, and also Ascended Lady Masters such as Kuan Yin, Mary Magdalene, and Mother Mary."[2]

On another popular New Age site, entitled Who's Who Among the Guides, another physic offers a list of different spiritual entities that can be contacted to help people with a variety of problems. Among this list of Ascended Masters are several popular Catholic saints as follows:

**Archangel Uriel / Azrael** is the Archangel of Life and Death. She helps spirits who are about to be born move into the bodies that will house them, and she helps those who are dying to let go their bodies, as they cross over into the afterlife. She is the patron of crystalline life forms, both organic (such as humanity and other animal life) and inorganic (such as stones and crystals). People most often come to Azrael for information about crystals, and for information about life-threatening illnesses, death, and dying.

**Archangel Gabriel** is known as God's Messenger. He is the ArchAngelic Great Communicator who guides and directs that infinitely vast body of messaging traffic between heaven and earth. As such, he is the patron of channels, psychics, telepaths, writers, and communicators of all media. He teaches clarity, detachment, and language skills. He is sophisticated and up to date, and loves the Internet. Gabriel is also one of the four positive ArchAngels having Dominion over the Earth, along with Michael, Raphael, and Azrael.

**Mary–The Mother** is one of the most familiar personifications of Goddess energy—the female manifestation of the I AM presence. She is the Earthmother, whose powerful and loving presence has always been with us, extending from the before-the-beginning into infinity. She is not confined to any one religion, or to any one tradition. She belongs to us all … she loves us all … she is here to teach us all. She is a core member of The LightSource Group. People come to her for help in any situation. She comforts us, explains things to us, shares her wisdom with us, supports us in our journeys of self-healing and balanced self-empowerment, and stands beside us throughout our lives. She helps us to let go of old blockages, and helps us find forgiveness in our hearts for others, and for ourselves. She loves us unconditionally.[3]

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# Gianna Talone-Sullivan

## Our Lady of Emmitsburg

Gianna Talone was born the youngest of three children in Phoenix, Arizona. Her early childhood was filled with love and rejection, material comfort and subsequent need, all centered on a career in show business.[1]

After taking a trip to Medjugorje in the late 1980s, Gianna began hearing voices from the Blessed Mother. Apparitions and messages from Mary continued to follow her after she returned home. Gianna then began to experience Marian apparitions almost every day. Eventually, she joined others from the Scottsdale area who were also experiencing heavenly locutions after their trip to Medjugorje.[2]

During this time, Michael Sullivan MD was conducting a lecture in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Medjugorje. He was invited to witness a private apparition that was occurring to Gianna Talone. During the apparition, the spiritual entity pointed out Dr. Sullivan to Gianna, and invited Gianna to enter into marriage with him. After reflecting on this recommendation, Gianna Talone and Michael Sullivan were married in 1993.

A few months before they were married, Gianna went to meet with Michael's family. During this trip, the couple visited some of Michael's favorite sites, among them was the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg. It was during this visit that the Blessed Mother appeared to Gianna and invited her, along with her future husband, to move to Emmitsburg, Maryland.[3]

The couple accepted the invitation and moved to Emmitsburg on November 1, 1993. Two days after moving to Emmitsburg, Gianna and Michael Sullivan attended their first "Mar-

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ian Prayer Group" in the chapel at St. Joseph Church. During the Rosary, "Our Lady of Emmitsburg" allegedly appeared to Gianna, and has continued to do so every since.

As word spread about the Blessed Mother's appearances, hundreds of people flocked to the meetings. Three months after the first apparition occurred, the chapel could no longer hold all the participants. From that time forward, Gianna began to experience weekly apparitions. After each apparition, a message for the world was given through Gianna, from Our Lady of Emmitsburg, and then distributed among the faithful.[5]

The messages from Our Lady of Emmitsburg closely reflect those of other condemned sites. Jesus is usually portrayed as a hostile warlord whose only intention is it to inflict terrible chastisements upon the earth. Mary is always glorified as the Savior of the world, the one who is holding back the hand of her angry Son's wrath. The threats of end-time disasters ring with a tone of urgency, leaving her followers only one way to protect themselves—praying more Rosaries and consecrating their lives into this entity's protection and power.

On June 7, 2003, the Archbishop of Baltimore, William H. Keeler issued the following decree of *constat de non supernaturalitate*. Since that time her published works and prayer meetings have been banned from Church property for the following reasons:

## Statement concerning Archdiocesan action regarding alleged apparitions to Gianna Talone-Sullivan in Emmitsburg, Maryland

On Friday, September 8, 2000, Archdiocesan officials met in Baltimore with Mrs. Gianna Talone-Sullivan to inform her that the Church found it impossible to permit, in a Catholic church, the continuation of prayer services centered around apparitions she alleges to experience with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mrs. Sullivan claims to receive messages from the Blessed Mother six days a week and one of these allegedly occurs at a public prayer service each Thursday at St. Joseph's parish in Emmitsburg. At each of these prayer services, Mrs. Sullivan claims to receive a message from the Blessed Mother that is then read to those present.

The following official statement was provided to Mrs. Sullivan last Friday and was also read to St. Joseph's parishioners at Mass during the weekend of September 9 and 10.

1. Following a careful examination of recently available information relative to the alleged apparitions, the Archdiocese of Baltimore finds no basis for them.

2. The Archdiocese of Baltimore has directed that the Thursday night prayer group meetings held at St. Joseph Church in Emmitsburg, Maryland be discontinued at this time.

3. The Archdiocese of Baltimore is unable to support the message of the video "Unbridled Mercy" and has asked that sales of the video be discontinued immediately.

Mrs. Sullivan is on record as having allegedly experienced apparitions of the Blessed Mother while living in the Diocese of Phoenix. Since her relocation to the Emmitsburg area approximately seven years ago, these alleged apparitions have continued. The Archdiocese of Baltimore, as the Diocese of Phoenix before, has until recently taken a neutral view on the authenticity of Mrs. Sullivan's alleged apparitions. St. Joseph's parish in Emmitsburg has hosted her Thursday prayer services over the past several years and attendance has grown to several hundred attendees each week.

Prayer services and prayer groups (there are over 30) are encouraged and common around

the archdiocese, where parishes make dedicated efforts to provide for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and adoration of the Lord (two parishes provide Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and many others offer Eucharistic Adoration on a regular basis), the opportunity to seek the Blessed Mother's intercession through prayer, and often the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. The Thursday prayer services at St. Joseph's had combined these elements. More importantly, however, they had primarily become a platform for promoting Mrs. Sullivan's alleged apparitions in a setting which suggests Church approval of both their authenticity and theological content.

This action by the Archdiocese comes after a review of several months by Archdiocesan officials and theologians. Although the Archdiocese does not intend to detail a point-by-point theological analysis of the content of any of the messages Mrs. Sullivan claims to have received, it finds elements in them that cannot be reconciled with the teaching of the Church, including material that deals with predictions for the future and visions of an apocalyptic nature. Additional information presented in a video by and about Mrs. Sullivan entitled "Unbridled Mercy" played a significant role in this review and its result. For those who may be disappointed by this action, the archdiocese encourages continued prayer. The Archdiocese calls on the faithful to strengthen their resolve to follow Jesus through reception of the sacraments, personal prayer, study of our Catholic faith, devotion to the Blessed Mother, and participation in the life of their parishes.[6]

After Archbishop William H. Keeler issued the decree of *constat de non supernaturalitate* on June 7, 2003, Gianna, has continued to spread her alleged locutions throughout the world, and by doing so, has caused a great deal of harm and division among the faithful. Due to the magnitude of this problem, the Archbishop of Baltimore, Edwin F. O'Brien, issued the following statement on October 8, 2008:

"The alleged apparitions to Gianna Sullivan have not been recognized by the authority of the Church. Studied in detail by experts in theology and other pertinent fields, the investigations have come to the conclusion that the alleged apparitions are not supernatural in origin. This has been confirmed by the authority of the Church.

"Therefore, I strongly caution all the faithful regarding these purported apparitions to be guided by the Magisterium which cannot affirm them as authentic. The confusion and division that have come as a result of these apparitions have prompted me to take this public and decisive step.

"I also strongly caution Mrs. Gianna Talone-Sullivan not to communicate in any manner whatsoever, written or spoken, electronic or printed, personally or through another in any church, public oratory, chapel or any other place or locale, public or private, within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore any information of any type related to or containing messages or locutions allegedly received from the Virgin Mother of God.

"Further, I strongly caution those who participate in any activity surrounding these alleged apparitions or who seek to disseminate information and promote them here in the Archdiocese. To do so is a great disservice to the Church and creates further confusion and division among the faithful."[7]

# Christina Gallagher
## Achill Island, Ireland

Christina Gallagher claims that she was just "a shy Irish housewife" when she first received a "vision" of a beautiful lady in January 1988. A few weeks later, she began receiving regular messages from this entity who identified herself as the Queen of Peace. This lady wanted Christina to deliver messages to the world and to build a "House of Prayer" on Achill Island, Ireland.

At first the messages seemed commonplace to many of the faithful; the Queen of Peace wanted people to turn back to God, repent of their sins, and pray the Rosary. Then the messages turned more political and apocalyptic in nature. On July 16, 1999, the Queen of Peace began offering a mark called the "Seal of the Living God," which she said was necessary to withstand the temptations of the Antichrist. This "seal" was required for salvation and could only be received at the House of Prayer. The offer expired in 2000, but that didn't prevent thousands of pilgrims from flocking to this tiny windswept island, bringing with them an estimated €850,000 annually.[1]

The Queen of Peace also requested that a new medal be made and distributed for her followers' protection. It is called the "Matrix Medal," because the lady who gave Christina the vision claimed she was "the Mediatrix of all graces." Her followers were required to say an Act of Consecration stating that the medal was a "sign of surrender" into her power and protection. According to Christina, "her followers should wear the Matrix Medal at all times, place the image of Our Lady Queen of Peace in their homes, and pray the Consecration prayer daily as Our Lady has requested."[2]

Since that time, several newspapers have reported stories on the financial status of Christina's ministry. Reporters have been following Mrs. Gallagher around in her seven series BMW trying to get a statement. They have accused her of accumulating considerable wealth at the expense of the elderly. The accusations arise from the purchase of a €4,000,000 mansion and another €1,000,000 property outside Ballina where her daughter resides.[3]

After the accusations were made public, many elderly contributors came forward. One couple claims they are now living in poverty after donating their entire life savings of €90,000 to the House of Prayer at the request of Mrs. Gallagher's associates. Others have stated that Christina's messages from God have become increasingly more terrifying and threatening toward those who do not support her.[4]

In 1996, the Most Reverend Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, established a commission to investigate the House of Prayer. A year later he issued a statement saying, "I find myself obliged to state that no evidence has been presented which might prove beyond reasonable doubt the occurrence of supernatural phenomena of whatever kind in this situation..." Although he found no evidence of the supernatural, Archbishop Neary allowed the House of Prayer to remain open, asking that a private association be established to deal with the disposition of funds.[5]

In response to the Archbishop's request, Christina issued a statement to the press that she had been harshly treated by the Archdiocese and planned to close the House of Prayer. In order to clarify this issue for the faithful, Archbishop Neary issued another document that concluded with the following statement, "The House of Prayer has no Church approval and the work

does not enjoy the confidence of the diocesan authorities."[6]

Shortly after Mrs. Gallagher announced the closure of her organization, the House of Prayer reopened and has expanded its operations to an additional location in Leander, Texas. Upon receiving this news, the Bishop for the Diocese of Austin, Texas, Gregory M. Aymond, issued the following warning: "Our Lady Queen of Peace House of Prayer, scheduled to open on June 23, 2006 in Leander, is doing so without approval. It should not be considered as sanctioned by the Catholic Church. The house of prayer is associated with Mrs. Christian Gallagher of the Tuam Archdiocese in Ireland. The Tuam Archdiocese does not recommend her or the House of Prayer as credible."[7]

SPECIAL SUNDAY WORLD REPORT

DIE-HARD FOLLOWERS: Pilgrims at the House of Prayer, Achill Sound, Co. Mayo recently. Right, Christina Gallagher, who is lying low since Sunday World exposed the church

Former members seek legal help to get donations back

COPS PROBE HOUSE OF PRAYER CASH

LETTER: Archbishop Neary

By JACK GLEESON

GARDAI have launched an official probe into huge cash donations made by devotees to the controversial House of Prayer on Achill Island.

Detectives are planning to interview key figures involved in the church and have already quizzed former members about a number of large donations.

The investigation follows Sunday World's exclusive revelations that self-proclaimed visionary and founder of the House of Prayer, Christina Gallagher, is living a life of luxury in a £4 million mansion.

The House of Prayer is also facing more criticism from pulpits around the country. Archbishop of Tuam, Dr Michael Neary, will distribute a letter to all parishes warning Catholics that the Archdiocese of Tuam doesn't approve of the centre on Achill.

Warned

The statement will be sent out in the coming weeks and each parish will decide whether to read it from the alter or publish it in church newsletters.

Former leading member at the House of Prayer, Michael McCory, said members were now coming forward with even more allegations about Christina Gallagher.

QUESTIONS: Christina's mansion in Mayo (left) and Dublin (right). Inset, former leading member Michael McCory

increasing pressure following revelations about her wealth in Sunday World.

We revealed how the woman who claims she has no interest in material wealth moved into an Italian style mansion set 1.2 acres in Malahide two years ago.

Exposed

least £110,000.

Michael McCory said followers were now questioning where the money used to fund her apparent luxury lifestyle had come from.

"If we are to judge only by what we can see – her jewellery, clothes, cars, names, family owned houses, artwork, furniture and accessories – we would have to

al members had defected and those who have donated large amounts could join the legal battle to get their money back.

"We have some people who already have representation," he said.

Several members have abandoned the church since our revelations despite constant denials and attacks on this newspaper from die-hard followers.

Rise

Gallagher's astonishing rise from being an ordinary housewife and mum-of-two began when she claimed she was receiving regular messages from God two decades ago.

She later added that she had developed the stigmata wounds of Christ – a claim rubbished by church officials.

A spokesperson for Archbishop Neary said a com-

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# Veronica Lueken
## Bayside, New York

After smelling a scent of perfumed roses in her car, Veronica Lueken started reporting Marian apparitions on the property of St. Robert Bellarmine's Catholic Church at Bayside, New York. According to the seer, the Blessed Mother had allegedly asked her to establish a shrine at the site on April 7, 1970, and to hold Rosary vigils for the reparation of the clergy's sins. Not long after, Veronica started spreading the messages.[1]

Many of the prophesies promised the imminent chastisement of the entire human race. According to Veronica's predictions, the United States government would experience internal strife, then after a great war broke out, the streets would run with blood. The nations would then disappear, and there would be widespread earthquakes, famine, and starvation.

On August 14, 1975, the entity that had been delivering the messages said, "Bodies will burn and blow away and find no resting place. There will be revolution in the countries of the world; brother against brother; sister against sister. Bodies shall lie in the market place unburied and uncovered; so great will be the dead! My children, is this what you want?"[2]

A year later the prophesies still had not been fulfilled, so the entity delivered another message on June 12, 1976, saying, "There will be tremendously high waves roaring and taking with them cities; buildings shall disappear from their moorings. The atmosphere shall spew forth currents of great heat. A darkness of spirit and a darkness of atmosphere shall settle in a deadly quiet upon mankind."[3]

Most of the public apparitions occurred during the Rosary vigils. During these vigils Veronica would fall into ecstasy as she encountered the Virgin Mary and other heavenly beings. During these encounters, her mouth would hang open, and her eyes would roll back into her head. After the ecstasy, she would then describe the vision and repeat the words that she had heard. Almost all of the ecstasies were recorded live on audiotape in the presence of hundreds of pilgrims.

As the supernatural visions continued, Veronica began suffering tremendous physical pain. Not only did she suffer a serious back problem caused by the disintegration of her spinal vertebrae, but she also suffered several heart attacks and other major physical maladies. It was not unusual for pilgrims to see her arrive at the vigils in a wheelchair or trying to breathe from an oxygen tank. According to one message delivered on August 21, 1985, Veronica had been given these infirmities as a special gift because she wanted to become a "victim soul."[4]

As the Bayside movement continued to spread, it became most famous for its "miraculous" photographs. There were thousands of pictures taken during the vigils, and many of them depicted yellow squiggly lines that looked like Silly String being sprayed across a black background. Other images included the words "Jacinta 1972," which were supposedly sent by Jacinta, one of the visionaries from Fatima from beyond the grave.

The followers of Veronica's messages are called the "children of light," and they must wear a Rosary around their necks, store canned goods and water in their homes, post a crucifix on their front and back doors. And if the Saint Benedict medal is not worn, great calamity will befall the individual.

On November 4, 1986, Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn made the following statement concerning the alleged Marian apparitions at Bayside, New York:

## DECLARATION CONCERNING THE "BAYSIDE MOVEMENT"

**November 4, 1986 Letter of Bishop Francis Mugavero of Brooklyn**

In recent months, doubts have been raised by members of the so-called "Bayside Movement" concerning the official position of the Diocese of Brooklyn on the alleged "apparitions" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other heavenly beings, to a woman by the name of Veronica Lueken.

Moreover, erroneous claims have been made by a number of followers of Mrs. Lueken concerning the legitimacy of their position, in order to justify their activities on behalf of the "Movement." These have taken the form of statements in their publications that "since Articles 1399 and 2218 of (the 1917 Code of) Canon Law were abrogated by Pope Paul VI in 1966, no ecclesiastical permission is required, neither can anyone incur censure, for the publication or dissemination of information dealing with revelations, visions or miracles, provided these do not endanger Faith or morals."

As a result of the above-mentioned doubts and claims, a number of Christ's faithful continue to attend the regularly-scheduled "vigils" held at Flushing Meadow Park, and to disseminate or receive propaganda literature on this matter.

I, the undersigned Diocesan Bishop of Brooklyn, in my role as the legitimate shepherd of this particular Church, wish to confirm the constant position of the Diocese of Brooklyn that a thorough investigation revealed that the alleged "visions of Bayside" completely lacked authenticity.

Moreover, in view of the confusion created by published reports of messages and other literature by this "Movement," I consider it my obligation to offer Christ's faithful pastoral guidance, lest their faith be endangered by "messages" and "teachings" relayed by "visionaries," which are contrary to the Faith of our Catholic Church.

Therefore, in consultation with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I hereby declare that:

1. No credibility can be given to the so-called "apparitions" reported by Veronica Lueken and her followers.

2. The "messages" and other related propaganda contain statements which, among other things, are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, undermine the legitimate authority of bishops and councils and instill doubts in the minds of the faithful, for example, by claiming that, for years, an "imposter (sic) Pope" governed the Catholic Church in place of Paul VI.

3. Those who persistently maintain that "no ecclesiastical permission is required for the publication or dissemination" of information concerning "revelations, visions or miracles," are erroneously interpreting the directives of the Holy See when they attempt to justify the publication of the propaganda literature on the "Bayside Messages."

In view of my declaration concerning the authenticity of the "visions of Bayside," the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has confirmed that the principles governing the publication of such religious material still maintain authoritative moral value prohibiting the endangering of faith and good morals (Cf. Response of SCDF of June 14, 1966, in AAS 58, 1186).

As a result, those publishing or disseminating this propaganda literature are acting against the judgment of legitimate Church authority.

4. Because of my concern for their spiritual welfare, members of Christ's faithful are hereby

directed to refrain from participating in the “vigils” and from disseminating any propaganda related to the “Bayside apparitions.” They are also discouraged from reading any such literature.

5. Anyone promoting this devotion in any way, be it by participating in the “vigils,” organizing pilgrimages, publishing or disseminating the literature related to it, is contributing to the confusion which is being created in the faith of God’s people, as well as encouraging them to act against the determinations made by the legitimate pastor of this particular Church (c.212, para. 1).

It remains my constant hope that all the faithful spend their time and energies in promoting devotion to our Blessed Lady, in the many forms which have been approved by the Catholic Church.[5]

+Bishop Francis Mugavero
Bishop of Brooklyn

"FATIMA - JACINTA 1972"

The Jacinta 1972 photo image has been reduced in order to speed up loading. To view a a full sized image, Click the above photo.
This will take a few minutes as the file is about 90k , so please be patient.

"Within this photograph lies the date, the month, the hour, the year of the coming Chastisement..."

September 14, 1971... A man took a picture of Our Lady's statue with a Polaroid instant camera. The words "JACINTA 1972" appeared on the picture in an eerie supernatural scrawl across the face of the picture.

Our Lady... November 25, 1978.
"My child, the picture "JACINTA" must be read by all of Earths children. You will give them this direction. If it be in the will of the Eternal Father that they be graced to receive the truth, they will observe carefully and examine the photograph miraculous, "JACINTA 1972" and search for lines and figures and numbers. Within the miraculous picture is given the date by God the Father for the Chastisement of mankind. All will be conditional to the response of mankind. You will well remember the words of My Son to the world in relation to this miraculous picture. 'Consider this picture as a puzzle for the human race to figure out. If not solved in due time, I, Jesus, will set the answer upon the world myself. Within this picture,

[6]

# Maureen Sweeney-Kyle

## Holy Love Ministries at Maranatha Spring

Maureen Sweeney-Kyle started reporting heavenly locutions in 1985 when the Blessed Mother allegedly appeared to her above the altar in St. Brendan's Catholic Church in North Olmsted, Ohio. Transfixed by the vision, Maureen watched as the sparkling rosary beads in Mary's hand caught the light and changed into shapes resembling the fifty United States.[1]

Not long afterward, the Blessed Mother started making personal appearances to Maureen almost every day. Maureen would hear thoughts like, "Pray for the Church, pray for the souls of corrupt priests, and Maureen, please remember to take your medicine." Not knowing what to do with all the messages, Maureen confided in Father Ferris Kleem, a visiting priest at St. Brendan's parish. Father Kleem was no ordinary diocesan priest—he belonged to the Marianist order, which professed special devotion to the Blessed Mother and wasn't bound to the authority of the local Bishop.[2]

Maureen explained her situation to Father Kleem by saying, "These words just keep popping in my head, and I don't know where they come from." Father Kleem responded by saying, "Those aren't words, those are divine locutions." He urged her to write them down in a journal so that they could be read aloud at his prayer group.

Because the pastor at St. Brendan's Church treated Maureen's visions like far-fetched tales, Father Kleem and Maureen's followers left the church and started meeting in private homes. The prayer group then adopted the name Our Lady Protectress of the Faith and began a crusade to win ecclesiastical approval from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

During this time, Maureen's husband, Paul Sweeney, was skeptical about the locutions. He was an active parishioner at St. Brendan's Church and had attended many of the group's early meetings. Although he was a devout Catholic, he had no interest in becoming more involved with Maureen's alleged locutions. To resolve this problem, the Blessed Mother prompted one of the group's members to deliver a message to Donald Kyle, a former police officer, requesting him to join the ministry.

By the early 1990s, Maureen was spending more time with Don Kyle than she was with her husband. After asking Don to accompany her on a trip to Florida, Maureen found herself inseparable from his side. Soon after their trip to Florida in the summer of 1993, Maureen moved out of the house and filed for separation. Several months later, Paul filed for a divorce, which was granted in May 1995. Don and Maureen were eventually married in February 1997.

During this time, the ministry moved to a home in the Seven Hills area, and after hiring a professional fund-raiser, the ministry began to flourish. It was at the Seven Hills home that the Blessed Mother told Maureen to dig a well in the backyard. The holy spring, which Mary called "Maranatha Spring," took shape in the form of a red-handled pump on a far corner of the property. After the pump was installed, the pilgrims could fill empty milk jugs with water that allegedly contained miraculous healing properties.

Another popular attraction at the Seven Hills home was the "Blessing Point," a carpeted corner of the living room where Maureen received her visions. The pilgrims were allowed to venerate the holy carpet by kissing it. Allegedly the Blessed Mother told Maureen, "I promise many favors will be granted by this means." Believers would also place their rings and other religious objects on the Blessing Point so that the Virgin Mother would bestow graces upon them.[3]

In June 1994, about a thousand pilgrims gathered in the Seven Hills home one Saturday afternoon. Pilgrims were spilling over onto the neighbors' lawns, and traffic was being blocked by several tour buses that were piled up in the street. Four days later, the city of Seven Hills obtained a temporary restraining order against the ministry, and in August 1994, Judge Judith Kilbane-Koch ruled that the group could no longer use the house as a meeting place.

Not long afterward, the Blessed Mother started giving orders like the CEO of a major corporation, asking for cash and real estate. According to a December 5, 1994, fund-raising letter, the spiritual entities that were delivering messages to Maureen wanted "three to five acres with options on the surrounding land." The Blessed Mother also wanted a 900 number and was calling out to financial backers for help, "Dear children, the hour has come when you need to pool your resources just as the apostles did, all for the greater glory of God," reads a letter mailed to potential donors. "Search your hearts, find your assets, and contribute generously."[4]

Shortly after, Don Kyle started knocking on farmers' doors to see if they had any land to sell. Several months later, the ministry was able to acquire an eighty-three-acre farm in Lorain County for $350,000. According to the Blessed Mothers' instructions, they dug a new well at the far end of the property in the middle of winter 1995. The Blessed Mother also wanted the circle of carpeting cut from the suburban living room where She used to appear and have it brought to the new location.

Soiled and worn from many hours of kneeling and veneration, the carpet remnant, or "Blessing Point," is now mounted on a wooden stand in a new chapel on the eighty-three-acre site. In May 1996, the Lorain County Health Department determined that the well was unsafe for drinking, but that did not stop the pilgrims. In 1995 donations from the public nearly tripled to $306,139 and peaked in 1996 at $506,724. Attendance hit an all-time high on May 5, 1996, when 6,000 people turned out for a scheduled appearance of the Blessed Mother.[5]

Recently, the Blessed Mother gave Maureen a strand of Her hair, which is kept in a glass case in a small prayer room off the Holy Love chapel. The faithful file in, kneel, and "kiss" the hair, wiping their lip prints off the glass with Kleenex from a box on a nearby nightstand. The day Maureen found the hair, she was looking at her blouse, thinking, "Oh, I did a pretty decent job of ironing." She noticed the long strand of hair, picked it off, and threw it on the floor. Afterward Jesus told her, "You shouldn't have done that. That was Our Lady's hair." So Maureen got down on the floor to find it. According to Maureen's husband, Jesus had promised that if anyone were to venerate that strand of hair, "untold graces would be theirs."

Today, Holy Love Ministries at Maranatha Spring continues to host thousands of pilgrims who arrive by bus to pray the rosary and sing "Ave Maria." Many of the pilgrims have claimed to have witnessed spectacular phenomena in the sky, taken miraculous photographs, and watched their rosaries turn to gold. Others have left the site disillusioned by the million-dollar business complete with a full line of sacred merchandise, everything from twenty-five-cent holy cards to a one-million-dollar commemorative plaque.

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland issued a statement in August 1999 making it clear that Holy Love Ministries has no approval or support from the Catholic Church. Even though Holy Love uses Catholic images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Rosary, and the Blessed Mother to ask for money on the Internet and by direct mail, the diocese urges "extreme caution" for anyone involved with the alleged apparitions and messages. This statement can be viewed on the diocese's website as follows:

## Caution - Holy Love Ministries

A group known by the name “Holy Love Ministries” and also the “Missionary Servants of Holy Love,” has been active in the Cleveland area for several years. Earlier names associated with this group have been the “Our Lady Protectress of the Faith Movement,” “Project Mercy,” and “Mary’s House of Prayer.”

They continue to seek funds to develop their center and support their efforts. We would caution anyone considering support of such a venture to realize that this organization has no approval or support from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. In a meeting held with diocesan officials, leaders of “Holy Love Ministries” made it clear that although they encourage Catholic practices, the ministry is ecumenical, and therefore not subject to the authority of the Catholic Church.

Recent publicity regarding reported apparitions and messages makes it necessary to urge extreme caution in giving credence to such claims.[6]

7

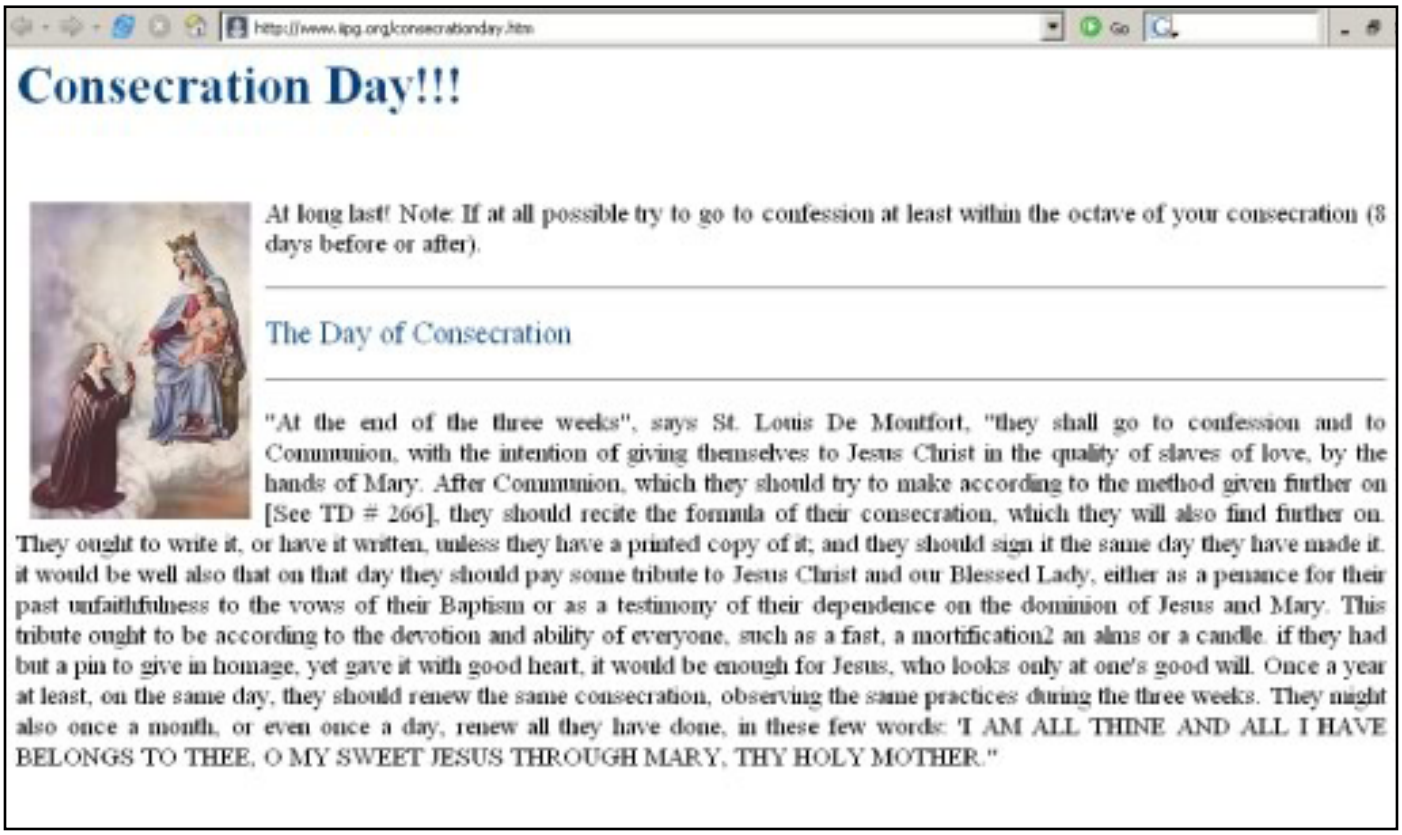
# Part III
# Consecration Vows

# Consecration Vows
## to the Immaculata Queen of Heaven

They are appearing inside church pew pockets, on religious websites, and being endorsed by parish priests who have been leading their congregations into these spiritually binding agreements. There are many different variations of consecration vows, but the fundamental principle remains the same—they all require participants to surrender something sacred in exchange for the promise of receiving something beneficial.

Some consecration vows promise salvation, others offer protection from end-time chastisements, while others require Catholics to sell their souls in exchange for the forgiveness of their sins. The following sections have been prepaired to help Catholics understand why they should *not* sell their souls to the Immaculata or the Queen of Heaven:

1. Consecration Vows Are Spiritually Binding Agreements
2. Satan Can Operate Under the Names *Queen of Heaven* and *Immaculata*
3. The Saint Louis de Montfort Vow Contains Serious Theological Errors
4. Consecration Vows Have *Not* Been Approved by the Catholic Church
5. Consecration Vows Have Harmful Effects on Spirit-filled Catholics
6. Steps to Break Free from Spiritual Bondage



http://www.ipg.org/consecrationday.htm

**Consecration Day!!!**

At long last! Note: If at all possible try to go to confession at least within the octave of your consecration (8 days before or after).

The Day of Consecration

"At the end of the three weeks", says St. Louis De Montfort, "they shall go to confession and to Communion, with the intention of giving themselves to Jesus Christ in the quality of slaves of love, by the hands of Mary. After Communion, which they should try to make according to the method given further on [See TD # 266], they should recite the formula of their consecration, which they will also find further on. They ought to write it, or have it written, unless they have a printed copy of it; and they should sign it the same day they have made it. it would be well also that on that day they should pay some tribute to Jesus Christ and our Blessed Lady, either as a penance for their past unfaithfulness to the vows of their Baptism or as a testimony of their dependence on the dominion of Jesus and Mary. This tribute ought to be according to the devotion and ability of everyone, such as a fast, a mortification2 an alms or a candle. if they had but a pin to give in homage, yet gave it with good heart, it would be enough for Jesus, who looks only at one's good will. Once a year at least, on the same day, they should renew the same consecration, observing the same practices during the three weeks. They might also once a month, or even once a day, renew all they have done, in these few words: 'I AM ALL THINE AND ALL I HAVE BELONGS TO THEE, O MY SWEET JESUS THROUGH MARY, THY HOLY MOTHER."

[1]

# Consecration Vows Are Spiritually Binding Agreements

Since the dawn of creation, Satan has been alluring humanity into making spiritual binding agreements with his vast army of fallen angels for the purpose of acquiring as many souls as possible. The simplest form of an agreement with evil comes from a person's own sin. When a man sins, he is saying *no* to God's will and *yes* to some kind of evil desire. Another type of agreement is when a man makes a direct vow with the spiritual realm, like when selling his soul (or his children's souls) in exchange for receiving some kind of benefit.

A good example of the way Satan desires to make spiritually binding agreements with humanity comes from Sacred Scripture: After Jesus fasted forty days and nights in the wilderness, the devil showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said to Jesus, *"To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."*[2]

Although Jesus did not accept the devil's offer, it has not prevented Satan from making the same offer to countless other victims throughout the centuries. A good example of this fact comes from well-documented cases in which rock & roll bands have made spiritually binding agreements with the devil. In several situations, the musicians spent many years trying to achieve popularity and prosperity without any success. Then after the members of the band found a high-level witch to broker an agreement with Satan to sell their souls into his possession and power, the band became an overnight success.

Because most Catholics would never consider selling their souls to Satan or any other unknown entity's possession and power, the devil and his vast army of deceptive spirits need to find a more subtle approach. Although it is true the Blessed Mother can appear to humanity with messages from heaven, it is also true that demonic spirits can appear to humanity with their own messages. It is for this reason the Catholic Church conducts serious investigations to make sure messages from apparition sites are coming from God.

There have been many false Marian apparition sites over the past century that have been condemned by the Catholic Church. The entities that have been appearing at these condemned sites have been making requests of their followers by saying, "Consecrate yourselves to me. Sell your souls into my possession and power. It is only in your Mother's arms that my children will be safe!"

Because the Catholic Church has investigated and determined that these sites are under demonic influence, when Catholics sell their souls into these entities' possession and power, they are actually making spiritually binding agreement with fallen angels. Once a demonic entity has been granted the legal rights to enter a person's life, all kinds of disastrous results will occur, including attacks on that person's health, accidents, and separation from the Church's guidance.

When demonic entities have been given the right to access a person's family linage, (through Freemasonry vows or when parents consecrate their children's souls to the Immaculata), disastrous results can occur in the form of addictions, divorce, criminal activity, health problems, and financial hardships for their children.

Some examples of false apparition sites (that have been condemned by the Catholic Church) in which spiritual entities have been making requests for their followers to sell their souls into their possession and power are as follows:

**Vassula Ryden**
**True Life in God**

On January 25, 2007, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a negative decree condemning Vassula Ryden's *True Life in God* messages, writings, and prayer groups.

According to Vassula Ryden's website, one day a spiritual entity manifested itself by moving Vassula's hand without her being able to control it, forming words and drawings. By this means, Vassula started to receive "messages" for about four to six hours a day.[3]

On April 9, 1998, this entity gave Vassula a message saying, "You are, My Vassula, consecrated to Me, and you have signed your consecration to Me with your own blood." To help explain the meaning of this message to her followers, Vassula stated, "I had pricked my finger and signed then with my own blood the consecration to become the Slave of our Blessed Mother."[4]

**Julia Kim**
**Our Lady of Naju**

Another example that reveals a desire for demonic entities to have their followers consecrate themselves into their possession and property comes from the life of Julia Kim. On January 1, 1998, Archbishop Victorinus Kong-Hee Youn issued a negative decree condemning Julia Kim's apparition site and messages.

According to Our Lady of Naju's website, the entity that has been appearing to Julia Kim has been making the following request from her followers, "It is time to consecrate yourselves to me. Why do you hesitate again and again?"[5]

Because this apparition site has been carefully examined and condemned by the Catholic Church, it is safe to conclude that the spiritual entities making these requests are not coming from God, his angels, or his saints.

**Gianna Talone-Sullivan**
**Our Lady of Emmitsburg**

If the devil were to appear at a false apparition site in the form of a raging monster and suggest that everyone sell their souls into his possession and property, no one would obey. Everyone would flee for their lives. In order for the devil to deceive as many people as possible, he needs to disguise his true identity and appear in the form of an "angel of light," as one of the saints, or even as the Blessed Mother.

On June 2, 1994, an entity appearing under the title of Our Lady of Emmitsburg said to seer Gianna Talone-Sullivan, "Please, little ones, I can no longer hold back the hand of my Son from the sorrow incurred on His Sacred Heart. My little ones, you must dive into my most Immaculate Heart immediately! I wish for you all to be consecrated to my Immaculate Heart and to be safe and free!"[6]

On June 7, 2003, the Archbishop of Baltimore, William H. Keeler, issued a negative decree condemning Gianna Talone-Sullivan's apparition sites, messages, and prayer meetings. After careful review, the Catholic Church concluded the message and requests for consecration were not coming from God.

**William Kamm**
**Saint Charbel Community**

According to another condemned apparition site, the seer William Kamm from the Saint Charbel Community's website states that all members of their community consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary every day. At the community's midday prayers, the consecration vows are renewed by all the members using the Saint Louis de Montfort formula.[7]

Currently, William Kamm is serving a ten-year prison sentence for having sexual relations with a fifteen-year-old girl after the Blessed Mother allegedly gave him permission to make her one of his twelve queens and seventy-two princesses needed to spawn a new human race. Apparently, the Virgin Mary also gave permission to the young girl to have an "intimate union" with Kamm after he appointed her as one of his queens.[8]

In June 2003, the Bishop of Wollongong, Peter W. Ingham, issued a decree of excommunication for Fr. Malcolm Broussard, William Kamm, and all other members associated with the St. Charbel Community.

# Satan Can Operate Under the Names Queen of Heaven and Immaculata

Consecration vows in which Catholics sell their souls to the Queen of Heaven are dangerous because the devil can assign religious-sounding names to his vast army of fallen angels including the names Refuge for Sinners, Immaculata, and Queen of Heaven.

A good example of the way demonic spirits have been operating under the name Queen of Heaven (beginning hundreds of years before the Blessed Mother was born), comes from Sacred Scripture. In Jeremiah 44 the Jewish exiles who were living in the land of Egypt were worshiping a demonic entity called Queen of Heaven. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to warn them by saying:

*"Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: You yourselves have seen all the disaster that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the towns of Judah. Look at them; today they are a desolation, without an inhabitant in them, because of the wickedness that they committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they had not known, neither they, nor you, nor your ancestors. Yet I persistently sent to you all my servants the prophets, saying, 'I beg you not to do this abominable thing that I hate!'"*[9]

*"Then all the men who were aware that their wives had been making offerings to other gods, and all the women who stood by, a great assembly, all the people who lived in Pathros in the land of Egypt, answered Jeremiah: 'As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we are not going to listen to you. Instead, we will do everything that we have vowed, make offerings to the queen of heaven and pour out libations to her.'"*[10]

Because the demons had been giving their victims special powers, the people who had been praying to them were unable to break free. In response to Jeremiah's warning they said, *"We used to have plenty of food, and prospered, and saw no misfortune. But from the time we stopped making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything and have perished by the sword and by famine."*[11]

*"And the women said, 'Indeed we will go on making offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her; do you think that we made cakes for her, marked with her image, and poured out libations to her without our husbands' being involved?'"*[12]

In this situation, the demons who were operating under the name Queen of Heaven were giving the Jewish exiles who worshiped them special powers and favors. Even though God sent Jeremiah to warn them, they could not break free because the demons had developed a stronghold in these people's lives and hearts through the sin of idolatry.

In other parts of the world, the same demonic entities were operating under different names. In the Babylonian and Assyrian culture they were using the name of Ishtar. In the Greek culture they were operating under the name of Aphrodite. In the Egyptian culture they were known as Isis. Worship of the female goddess was first introduced by King Manasseh and continued under the name of Artemis for the Ephesians.[13]

In today's culture, the same demonic entities continue their assault against humanity. In the New Age movement these demonic entities operate under the name of Isis, Queen of Heaven, and Ascended Master Mary. According to many New Age practitioners, the female goddess Mary is the same spiritual entity known as Isis. This entity is currently operating under a myriad of names including: The Great Enchantress, Goddess of Magic, Queen of Heaven, the Immaculata, Ascended Master Mary, Queen of the Gods, Star of the Sea, Goddess of Love, and Our Lady of Light.[14]

The technique that New Age practitioners use to communicate with these entities is called spiritual guide channeling. When this happens, a New Age practitioner will develop a special friendship with these entities by inviting them

into their lives; some may even sell their souls to these entities, all in exchange for a spiritual encounter, or to receive messages from heaven.

To see a list of all the demonic entities that New Age practitioners communicate with, you can search the Internet using the following keywords: List, New Age, Spirit Guides. Here you will see many of the same religious-sounding names that are being used at false apparition sites around the world. For example, the Saint Louis de Montfort vow addresses an entity called "Queen of Heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject."[15] The Militia of the Immaculata vow addresses an entity called "Immaculata, Queen of Heaven."[16] Father Gobbi's Marian Movement of Priests petitions an entity called the "Virgin of Fatima, Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Refuge of Sinners."[17]

After studying the way the New Age movement works, it's easy to discern that consecration vows are dangerous, open doors to the demonic. The Catholic Church has never granted permission for the faithful to sell their souls to the Immaculata or to channel messages from the spirit realm. According to the Catechism in sections 2663–2696, the faithful can pray in communion with the saints to God. We can also ask for the saints' intercession, but when Catholics cross the line and participate in New Age techniques, only disastrous results can be expected.

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# The Saint Louis de Montfort Consecration Vow Contains Serious Theological Errors

The modern-day consecration vow movement within the Catholic Church started with a book written by Saint Louis de Montfort entitled *A Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. Although Saint Louis is considered a good and holy saint whose life displayed many profound deeds of charity, his treatise with the consecration vow contains many exaggerated statements and serious theological errors.

It is not clear how much Saint Louis knew about theology, but from his writings we can discern that there were many theologians during the seventeenth century who were speaking out against excessive Marian devotions. Saint Louis described these men as "Scrupulous devotees" in his book as follows:

"The Scrupulous devotees are those who fear to dishonour the Son by honouring the Mother, to abase the one in elevating the other. They are unwilling that we should speak so often of our Lady, and address ourselves so frequently to her. These are the favourite sentences constantly in their mouths: To what end are so many chaplets, so many confraternities, and so many external devotions to the Blessed Virgin? There is much of ignorance in all this. It makes a mummery of our religion. Speak to us of those who are devout to Jesus Christ. We must have recourse to Jesus Christ; He is our only Mediator. We must preach Jesus Christ; this is the solid devotion."[18]

At the time this books was written, it was not clear what effect Saint Louis' consecration vow would have on the Church in the twentieth century. It is also unclear whether Saint Louis wrote the book as a rebuttal to those theologians who were warning him about excessive Marian devotions. What is clear from the saint's writings is his highly exaggerated tone and manner of flamboyant speech that he used to promote his views. For example, under the section entitled "Admirable Effects of the Perfect Consecration to Jesus by Mary," Saint Louis describes the effect of the consecration vow as follows:

"By the light which the Holy Ghost will give you by His dear Spouse, Mary, you will understand your own evil, your corruption, and your incapacity for any thing good, which is not God's free gift to us, either as Author of nature or of grace. In consequence of this knowledge, you will despise yourself. You will only think of

yourself with horror. You will regard yourself as a snail, that spoils every thing with its slime; or a toad, that poisons every thing with its venom; or as a spiteful serpent, only seeking to deceive."[19]

This statement aims to address humility, but because of the exaggerated tone, many Catholics who have taken the vow, don't feel or think of themselves as "a toad, that poisons every thing with its venom; or as a spiteful serpent, only seeking to deceive."

Another exaggerated statement from the effects of the consecration vow is described as follows: "Our Blessed Lady will give you also a portion of her faith, which was the greatest of all faiths that ever were on earth, greater than the faith of all the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Saints put together."[20]

This is an exaggerated statement because many Catholics who have entrusted their souls to the Immaculata have never received a portion of faith greater than all the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Saints put together.

According to Jesus, if his followers had faith the size of the mustard seed, they could say to the mountain, *"Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*[21] The eleventh chapter of Hebrews describes the faith of the patriarchs as follows, *"Who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."*[22] Yet according to Saint Louis de Montfort's writings, all we have to do is make the consecration vow and "a portion of faith greater than all the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Saints put together" will given to us!

In addition to the exaggerated and false statements made in *A Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, the consecration vow contains many serious theological errors as follows:

**A Need to Ratify Baptismal Promises**

In the Saint Louis de Montfort consecration, the words read as follows, "I, (Name), a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of my Baptism…"[23] The participant's baptismal promises are then placed into the possession of the Immaculata.

According to the Catechism, *"Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but also makes the neophyte a new creature, an adopted son of God, who has become a partaker of the divine nature, member of Christ and co-heir with him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit."*[24]

It is through our baptismal promises that we become children of God, co-heirs with Christ, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is nothing wrong with the Church's teaching on baptism, and there is no need to ratify or renew baptismal promises into the hands of the Immaculata, the Queen of Heaven, or any other spiritual entity.

**Turning to Mary for the Forgiveness of Sins**

In the Saint Louis de Montfort consecration the words read as follows, "I dare no more come by myself before Thy Most Holy and August Majesty. It is on this account that I have recourse to the intercession of Thy most holy Mother, whom Thou hast given me for a mediatrix with Thee. It is by her means that I hope to obtain of Thee contrition, and the pardon of my sins…"[25]

According to the Catechism, *"Only God forgives sins."*[26] The Catechism also states, *"Because sin is always an offense against God, only he can forgive it."*[27] Because Jesus is God in the flesh, Jesus has the authority to forgive man's sin. The power to forgive man's sins can also be granted through the priesthood, but according to the Church's teachings, Mary does not have the ability to forgive sins or grant salvation.

**Entrusting Salvation and Souls to the Immaculata**

In the Saint Louis de Montfort consecration, the words read as follows, "In the presence of all the heavenly court I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mistress. *I deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slave, my body and soul,* my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; *leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me,* and all that belongs to me, without exception…"[28]

According to the Catechism in section 450, *"From the beginning of Christian history, the assertion of Christ's lordship over the world and over history has implicitly recognized that man should not submit his personal freedom in an absolute manner to any earthly power, but only to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*[29]

The Catechism also states, *"It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature."*[30]

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# Consecration Vows Have Not Been Approved by the Catholic Church

As the consecration vow movement continues to spread throughout the Catholic Church, numerous websites have appeared making claims like, "These vows have Ecclesiastical Approval!" Other sites have been saying, "We have the Pope's approval and endorsement!" or "Our vows are approved by Popes and the greatest of all Saints!"

Are consecration vows dangerous New Age techniques that have crept into the Church? Or do they really have the Church's approval? To uncover the truth about the Church's alleged approval of consecration vows, it will be necessary to study what the Church says about *private revelations* versus *public decrees.*

According to the Catechism, *"Christian faith cannot accept revelations that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment, as is the case in certain non-Christian religions and also in certain recent sects which base themselves on such revelations."*[31] The Catechism also says, *"No new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ."*[32]

In other words, God has already given the Church everything she needs to know about the salvation of souls. Everything that God wanted to declare to humanity has already been delivered through the Incarnate Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in Sacred Scripture. When the Catechism says, "No new public revelation is to be expected," it means that the Church cannot accept any alternative forms of salvation.

Does this mean that Catholics don't have the right to practice contemplative prayer to discern the Lord's will for their lives? Of course not, because Jesus says, *"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."*[33] Catholics have an obligation to serve the Lord Jesus, and in order to do so, they need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and carefully discern God's will for their lives. When a man asks the Lord, "How do you want me to serve you?" he may receive a calling to embark on a mission trip. If the Lord is directing the man on a mission trip, that would be considered a *private revelation.*

According to the Catechism, *"Throughout the ages, there have been so-called private revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith."*[34] In other words, private revelations apply to individuals or individual situations, and public decrees apply to the entire Church.

If our beloved Pope John Paul II received a revelation from the Blessed Mother directing him to consecrate his soul into the Immaculata's

possession and power, it would be considered a *private revelation*. If a Sacred Assembly of Bishops formed an Ecumenical Council under Pope John Paul's guidance and issued a decree for the selling of souls to the Immaculata, it would be considered *de fide definita,* and would apply to all Catholics.

At this point in the Church's history, there have been no official public decrees for consecration vows. The Catholic Church has not granted the faithful permission to sell their souls or to entrust their salvation to the Immaculata or the Queen of Heaven. If the Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Louis de Montfort and instructed him to write a book entitled *A Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin,* then everything written in the book would be considered a *private revelation*.

Because Saint Louis de Montfort's consecration vows have *not* been approved by the Church, why are some Catholics claiming the vows have the Church's approval?

One possible reason is that Saint Louis de Montfort's name was mentioned four times in three different articles by Pope John Paul as follows:

**Crossing the Threshold of Hope**

In October of 1993, Pope John Paul II was scheduled to conduct a television interview with a reporter named Vittorio Messori. In preparation for the interview, a list of questions was prepared for the Pope to answer. Even though the television interview was cancelled, Pope John Paul II saved the reporter's questions and answered them on paper over the following months. Some of the questions that Vittorio Messori wanted to ask the Pope are as follows:

Does God really exist?
If God exists, why is he hiding?
Is Jesus the Son of God?
Why is there so much evil in the world?

Our beloved Pope John Paul answered the reporter's questions to the best of his ability. His answers were later published in the book entitled *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*.

In this book, under a chapter entitled "The Mother of God," Pope John Paul II describes the meaning of *Totus Tuus* by saying,

"During the Second World War, while I was employed as a factory worker, I came to be attracted to Marian devotion. At first, it seemed to me that I should distance myself a bit from the Marian devotion of my childhood, in order to focus more on Christ. Thanks to Saint Louis of Montfort, I came to understand that true devotion to the Mother of God is actually Christocentric, indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption."[35]

This same statement can be found on the Vatican website for the definition of *Totus Tuus*.[36] This is the only mention of Saint Louis de Montfort in the book, which does not address consecration vows. The rest of the chapter talks about the Pope's childhood devotions in his hometown parish in Wadowice as he prayed before Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the pilgrimages he made to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, and his devotion to Jasna Góra, an icon of the Black Madonna.

**Redemptoris Mater**

In March 25, 1987, Pope John Paul II released an "Encyclical on the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Life of the Pilgrim Church." The purpose for this document was to introduce a Marian year for the Church and to "promote a new and more careful reading" of what the Second Vatican Council said about the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this document, Saint Louis de Montfort is mentioned as a saint who "proposes consecration to Christ through the hands of Mary as an effective means for Christians to live faithfully their baptismal commitments."[37]

This is the only mention of Saint Louis de Montfort in the encyclical, which does not address consecration vows.

**Rosarium Virginis Mariae**

On October 16, 2002, Pope John Paul II released an apostolic letter entitled "Rosarium Virginis Mariae." In this document, Saint Louis de Montfort is mentioned as a saint "who discovered in the Rosary a genuine path to growth

in holiness," and also as a saint who desired to be more perfectly "conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ."[38] These are the only two references to Saint Louis de Montfort, and this apostolic letter does not address consecration vows.

The purpose of Rosarium Virginis Mariae was to introduce a new decade for the Rosary called the *Mysteries of Light* and to help Catholics understand the proper way to pray the Rosary as a meditation on the life of Christ. In this document, Pope John Paul II warns Catholics about the dangers that can occur when the Rosary is improperly prayed by saying, *"There is a risk that the Rosary would not only fail to produce the intended spiritual effects, but even that the beads, with which it is usually said, could come to be regarded as some kind of amulet or magic object, thereby radically distorting their meaning and function."*[39]

So what happens when Catholics pray the Rosary without any desire to be more fully conformed and united to Jesus Christ, as Saint Louis proposed? Or even worse, what happens when the beads of the Rosary are distorted into what Pope John Paul II calls "some kind of amulet or magic object?"

# Consecration Vows Have Harmful Effects on Spirit-filled Catholics

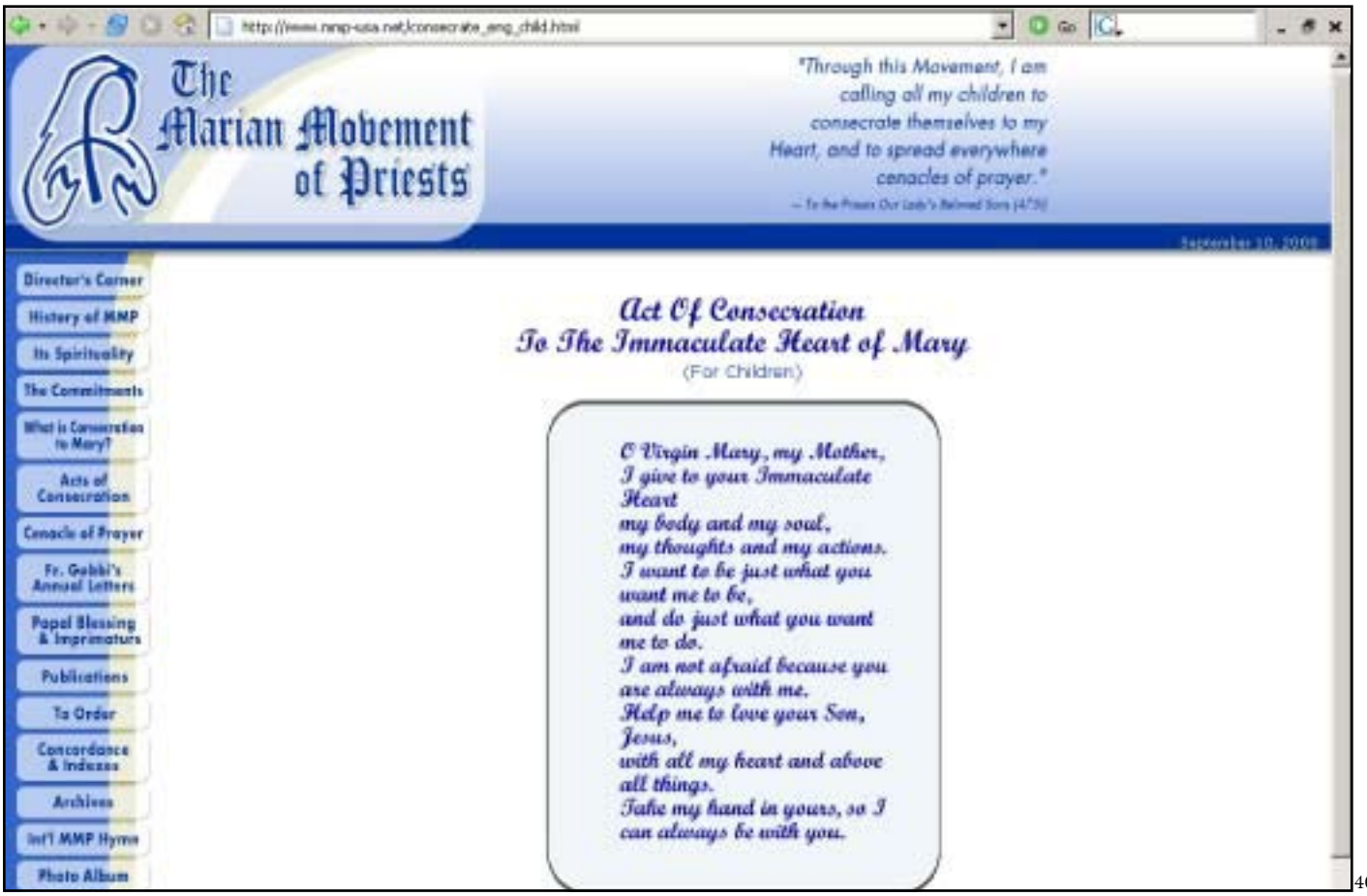
Because there are two different types of Catholics in the Church today, consecration vows will have a different effect on each. The first type of Catholics are Religious Devotees, the second type are Spirit-filled followers of Jesus Christ. The difference between the two parties, along with the effects of consecration vows on each party, is described as follows:

| Religious Devotees | Spirit-filled Catholics |
|---|---|
| Religious Devotees usually find themselves in a state of complacency because somewhere in their past they have been separated from fellowship with God's Spirit. Many of them are unwilling to walk the hard and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. They do not want to let go of reoccurring sins, and do not want to serve Jesus in the mission field. In an attempt to take a spiritual shortcut to God, many have become ensnared with the sin of idolatry, thinking that if they say enough Rosaries, Mary will somehow connect them to Jesus. | Spirit-filled Catholics are prepared to walk the hard and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. They realize that there are no shortcuts to holiness and no shortcuts to an authentic relationship with God. Spirit-filled Catholics realize that an authentic relationship with God will cost them everything, and they are prepared to pay the price. They know that the only way to develop an authentic relationship with Jesus is directly. There's no need for Spirit-filled Catholics to pray to something that's not God, in hopes that it will connect them to the real God. |
| Religious Devotees may own a Bible, but it usually sits on a shelf gathering dust. They have little or no interest in reading Sacred Scripture. Religious Devotees may know a few favorite Bible passages like the wedding feast at Cana, "where Jesus did everything his mother told him to do," but other than that, the Holy Spirit does not speak to them through Scripture. | Spirit-filled Catholics strive to apply God's Word to their lives on a daily basis. They not only study Sacred Scripture, they also live a life that actively reflects the morals, values, and precepts defined in Sacred Scripture. The Holy Spirit is able to bring God's Word to life for Spirit-filled Catholics and speak to them through God's divine inspiration. |

# Consecration Vows

| Religious Devotees | Spirit-filled Catholics |
|---|---|
| Many Religious Devotees spend a lifetime practicing religion, but they are unable to communicate with the Lord. God usually seems distant and far away, too busy to interact with humans; and it is for this reason that they have recourse to the Blessed Mother. Many Religious Devotees spend the majority of their time praying to the saints, in hopes that the saints will somehow connect them to Jesus. | Spirit-filled Catholics are able to connect directly with God in their prayer time. Because Spirit-filled Catholics have surrendered their lives into the Lord's service, it is necessary for them to commune with the Lord on a regular basis to receive their ministry assignments. |
| Many Religious Devotees appear holy when attending church on Sunday, but because of the empty hole deep within their souls, many try to fill the void with worldly vices. Their lives are usually filled with overeating, prescriptions for psychological medications, smoking, gambling, drinking, pornography, romance novels, television, and many other noisy distractions. | Spirit-filled Catholics like spending time in quiet, sitting in silence, practicing contemplative prayer, communing with Jesus the lover of their souls. Spirit-filled Catholics fast on a regular basis because they are hungry for more of God's presence. They would rather convert food hunger into a hunger for God, because the presence of God is more important than any worldly or fleshly desire. |
| Many Religious Devotees spend twenty minutes a day reciting rote prayers over and over again to the Blessed Mother, hoping that Mary will somehow connect them to her son Jesus. Then afterwards, they will watch two or three hours of television thinking that God is distant and far away. | Many Spirit-filled Catholics have completely removed the television from their homes because they would rather spend two hours in prayer every evening communing with Jesus the lover of their souls than watching several hours of sex, violence, sports, and comedy. |
| Because Religious Devotees' spiritual connection comes from religious behaviors, the only form of fruit they can produce is more religious devotions, like making Rosaries, praying to statues, disseminating copies of the Saint Jude Novena, buying Saint Joseph statues to bury underground, defending the Immaculata, promoting consecration vows, and visiting apparition sites. | Spirit-filled Catholics produce fruit for the kingdom of God, because like a branch that is connected to the vine, they maintain a deep, authentic, and life-giving connection to Jesus. Through this connection, they receive spiritual power from God to accomplish God's will in their lives. Spirit-filled Catholics can be found working in nursing homes, hospice centers, homeless shelters, and proclaiming the Gospel message in every country of the world. |
| Religious Devotees can only impart what they own. When they try to minister to others, their efforts are centered on promoting more of the same devotions that they themselves practice. Religious Devotees are not able to impart the Holy Spirit, or connect people to the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of placing their assurance of salvation in a lifetime of obedience to the Lord Jesus, they trust that their frequent prayers to the saints will somehow buy them favor with God. | Spirit-filled Catholics also impart what they own, which is their connection to the Blessed Trinity. When Spirit-filled Catholics minister to others, they have the ability to discern what separates men from God, a desire to address those issues with others, and the power of the Holy Spirit to connect people to the Lord Jesus Christ. Spirit-filled Catholics are able to proclaim the Gospel message and fulfill the Great Commission. |

| Religious Devotees | Spirit-filled Catholics |
|---|---|
| When Religious Devotees worship Mary, they have a tendency to magnify Mary's greatness, making her into something that conflicts with the truth found in Sacred Scripture. Marian worship causes a subconscious desire to make the mother of Jesus equal to or greater than God himself: Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Co-Redemptrix, Co-Mediatrix, Queen of Heaven and earth... | When Spirit-filled Catholics worship God, they also have a desire to magnify God's greatness. The more God's loving nature and divine attributes are magnified, the more profoundly God's greatness is revealed. Spirit-filled Catholics can worship and magnify the Lord's greatness for all eternity, and everything that's revealed will be the truth. |
| When Religious Devotees make an agreement with the devil through the sin of idolatry, a New Age practice, or a consecration vow, they usually feel empowered. Because Religious Devotees have never maintained an authentic relationship with the Blessed Trinity, they have nothing to compare this experience with. When Religious Devotees pray to God, nothing seems to happen, but when they sell their souls to the Immaculata, they usually feel *enlightened,* just as if they participated in any other type of New Age practice in which deceptive spirits were allowed access to their lives. | When Spirit-filled Catholics make an agreement with the devil through idolatry, it will cut them off from the Holy Spirit. Spirit-filled Catholics will be able to discern that something is not right with their prayer time. They will eventually miss the authentic presence of God, go back into their past, examine their conscience, identify the source of the problem, and once it is discovered, they will repent, denounce the devil's lies, and return to Jesus. |



| Religious Devotees | Spirit-filled Catholics |
|---|---|
| If your parish priest is a Religious Devotee, he will be content with a congregation of Catholics who do nothing more than attend Mass on Sunday and pray the Rosary. Because consecration vows keep Catholics in a state of spiritual stagnation, he may even be willing to promote consecration vows within his parish. A parish priest can only impart to others what he himself owns. | If your parish priest is a Spirit-filled Catholic, he will do everything in his power to proclaim God's truth about a Spirit-filled life in the Lord Jesus Christ. According to the Catechism in section 1676, he is required to keep a careful watch over popular forms of piety *"to purify and correct the religious sense which underlies these devotions so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ."*[41] |

# Steps to Break Free from Spiritual Bondage

### 1. Surrender Your Devotions to God

God is the only one who can accurately assess the spiritual condition of your heart. God knows if you have been praying to him in communion with the saints (as per the Catechism), or if you have been committing the sin of idolatry by praying directly to the saints. God knows if you have given demonic spirits access to your life, or if you have been obedient to the Holy Spirit. The first step to a deeper and more profound relationship with God is surrendering everything into his hands. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine the light of truth into your heart to illuminate everything that he wants to show you.

### 2. Discern God's Will for Your Situation

After you ask God for guidance, the next step is to discern what God has to say. If in the event you are unable to spend several hours sitting in silence communing with God deep in your heart, then it may be necessary to start removing all forms of noisy distractions from your life. Starting a seven-day fast on vegetables and water will also help you get more serious in your efforts to hear from God.

### 3. Ask God Questions About Your Life

Once you develop the ability to commune with God in your prayer time, you can begin the process of asking God questions and listening for the answers. A good question to ask God is, *Did I have your permission to sell my soul to the Immaculata?* If God says, *no,* then you will need to break those agreements in the name, power, and authority of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

### 4. Take the Spiritual Discernment Test

Another way to discern your spiritual condition is to stop praying to the saints for thirty days and focus all your prayer efforts on the Blessed Trinity. If you find yourself being constantly plagued with requests from the Blessed Mother, then it would be a good indicator that you have opened the door to the demonic. God and his real angels and saints will never violate your freewill by getting inside your head to harass you for more prayers. Demons, on the other hand, will violate your freewill, and constantly plague you for more devotions.

### 5. Prepare for a Major Battle

If you have participated in New Age spirituality for many years, the demonic spirits will not want to let you go without a battle. You will need to search your heart and past for every kind of sin and agreement you made with deceptive religious spirits. Once you identify the agreements, you will need to break them in the name, power, and authority of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. After you identity any sins of idolatry, it will be necessary to go to confession and make amends for your actions.

### 6. Cleanse Your Spiritual House

If you have been using religious objects as amulets or magic charms that provide protection, or bring you power, it may be necessary to remove those objects from your house. In order to maintain an authentic relationship with the Most Holy Trinity, you will need to rely solely on the Lord God Almighty for your protection, power, guidance, and provision.

### 7. Deepen Your Relationship With God

Once you have removed all unhealthy devotions and false gods from your heart, life, and environment (so that you can effectively commune with the Blessed Trinity), the next step is maintaining that relationship for the rest of your life. During your prayer time, if God calls you to forgive some people from your past, you will need to be obedient. If God calls you into ministry according to Matthew 7:21, you will need to follow Jesus wherever he leads. Step by step, your relationship with the Most Holy Trinity will produce an abundant harvest for the kingdom of heaven.

# New Age
## & Occult Practices

**Abacomancy:** A form of fortune-telling by observing omens in patterns of dust or sand.

**Amulet or talisman:** Items used as good-luck charms. Amulets or talismans can be coins, rings, pendants, statues, icons, drawings, or stones.

**Apporte:** The movement of objects by supernatural powers.

**Astral projection:** A phenomenon that occurs when a person travels outside his physical body, or travels in the spirit realm using a different state of consciousness. This practice is widely used by witches for the purpose of spying on others.

**Astro magic:** A practice in which a person steps out of his body through meditation to travel or cast spells in the spirit realm.

**Astrology:** A belief that the position of celestial bodies is useful for understanding or interpreting information about a person's life.

**Augury:** A practice that uses omens or portents to foretell the future. For example, an augur can foretell the future by observing a flight of birds.

**Automatic writing:** A practice where a person in a state of trance writes down messages from the spirit realm. The messages are often signed by a spiritual entity or a fallen angel that has been delivering the messages.

**Black magic:** A form of witchcraft that uses demonic spirits to harm, injure, or kill an intended victim.

**Black mass:** A satanic ritual performed to mock the Catholic Mass. In the black mass, the Lord's prayer is recited backward, communion is desecrated, and animals are sacrificed. Other practices include drug-induced sexual orgies in an attempt to acquire more demonic powers.

**Blood pacts:** Binding agreements made with Satan in exchange for power, wealth, and sexual favors. These agreements usually include a person's family lineage.

**Candle magick:** A tool used by New Age practitioners to increase the power of spells. Candles are carved with magical images, rubbed with oil, and burnt to enhance spells.

**Ceromancy:** Fortune-telling by means of melting wax drops into water.

**Chain letters:** Letters circulated by mail or email that carry with them a blessing and a curse. If a person fails to forward the chain letter, the curse can be the threat of bad luck. If the person continues the chain letter, he is promised good luck or other forms of prosperity.

**Channeling:** A practice used to receive messages from spirit guides, the Ascended Masters, or fallen angels.

**Charm:** A form of magic used to influence a person by an object that has been charged with supernatural powers. These objects are usually sealed with an incantation to bring good luck.

**Clairaudience:** The ability to hear in the spirit realm, or to communicate by mental thought with spirit guides.

**Clairvoyance:** The ability to see in the spirit realm or to communicate by visual images with spirit guides.

**Cleromancy:** Fortune-telling by casting lots, shells, or bones where the outcome is determined by random means, such as rolling dice.

**Conjuration:** An act of summoning evil spirits with the intent to harm another person. This practice is usually used in connection with charms.

**Coven:** A gathering of thirteen witches for the purpose of performing witchcraft.

**Crystalomancy:** Fortune-telling by gazing into a crystal ball.

**Crystals:** Pieces of transparent quartz widely used in the New Age movement because they allegedly contain healing powers and cleansing properties.

**Cyclomancy:** A practice of fortune-telling where a person consults a spinning object like a wheel or a bottle.

**Death magic:** A ceremony preformed by voodoo practitioners to bring about the death of a victim.

**Divination:** The practice of obtaining information through supernatural sources.

**Druids:** Members of the Celtic order of wizards who practice witchcraft, also known as magicians or diviners.

**Ectoplasm:** A cold or luminous substance that is emanated from a medium during a trance.

**Enchanting:** The practice of casting spells or curses (on a relatively permanent basis) against a specific person, object, or location. This practice is widely used by Satanists and Wiccans.

**Fetish:** A natural object believed to possess supernatural powers or to be inhabited by spirits.

**Fire walking:** The practice of walking barefoot on red-hot coals while invoking protection from supernatural powers.

**Hex:** A curse or a magical spell used to cause harm or misfortune to a victim.

**Hexagram:** A six-pointed star widely used in witchcraft to control the power of demons.

**Homeopathy:** Alternative medicine using herbs that can be enchanted by invoking magic formulas.

**Hydromancy:** A form of divination by observing ripples in water, or by dropping pebbles in a pool to interpret the ebb and flow.

**Hypnosis:** The practice of putting patients in a trance to heal memories, to explore past lives, or to reprogram the subconscious mind.

**Idol:** A saint, object, or deity that becomes the center of worship within a person's heart. A person commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God.

**Incantation:** The words spoken during a ritual or when casting a spell.

**Incubus:** A demon that attaches itself to a person's sexuality.

**Lampadomancy:** A form of divination that reads the movement of flames from an oil lamp.

**Lecanomancy:** A form of divination that uses stones and oil with a basin of water. After the stones have been dropped in the basin, the ripples can be interpreted. When oil is used, the shapes that form on the surface of the water can be interpreted.

**Levitation:** The process by which an object or person is raised into the air using supernatural powers.

**Lithomancy:** A form of divination using crystals.

**Lucky charm:** An amulet that is worn to bring good luck. Sometimes the charm needs to be placed in a specific location in a person's house to be effective.

**Macumba:** A form of black witchcraft practiced in Brazil with the use of sorcery, ritual dance, and fetishes.

**Mantra:** An incantation of repetitive verses that are recited for the purpose of quieting the mind and contacting the spirit realm.

**Medium:** A seer or lacutionist who communicates with the spirit realm.

**Necromancy:** A form of fortune-telling by communicating with spirits of the dead.

**New Age:** A broad movement of spirituality characterized by a group of individual seekers, teachers, healers, and other participants. Rather than following the lead of any organized religion, New Age practitioners typically construct their own forms of spirituality using aspects from Eastern religions, Wicca, past-life experiences, spirit guide channeling, and other occult practices.

**Numerology:** A form of divination in which the value of numbers (or letters from the alphabet) is used to interpret the mystical readings for a person's life.

**Occult symbols:** Symbols that are associated with the occult or Satan, such as the pentagram, reverse cross, caduceus, and mark of the beast.

**Omen:** Divination by using signs to foretell the future. For example, if a tree falls down in the forest, the sign can be interpreted to mean...almost anything.

**Ouija board:** A board game used to communicate with the spirit realm. After asking the netherworld a question, the participants place their hands on a pointer and wait for the spirits to spell out the answer by guiding their hands to the appropriate letters and numbers.

**Palmistry:** A practice of telling fortunes from the lines, marks, and patterns on a person's hand.

**Pendulum:** A swinging object used for divination. If the spiritual forces swing the pendulum clockwise, one interpretation is given. If the spiritual entities swing the pendulum counter-clockwise, a different outcome is discerned.

**Pentagram:** A five-pointed star used as a magic symbol by Masons, gnostics, magicians, Wiccans, and Satanists. The five points usually represent air, fire, water, earth, and spirit.

**Planchette:** A triangular-shaped object supported by castors that is used to spell out messages with a Ouija board or during a séance.

**Psychic birth:** The birth of a person's psychic abilities.

**Psychic healing:** An attempt to bring physical healing to a person by invoking supernatural powers from Reiki, hypnosis, or a number of other New Age practices.

**Psychometry:** A form of divination derived from physical contact with objects.

**Pyromancy:** Divination through the study of fire and its shapes.

**Reflexology:** An ancient Chinese practice where a person's feet are massaged in an attempt to impart spiritual powers to heal the body.

**Reiki:** A form of healing where supernatural powers are imparted into a person's body by using Reiki power symbols or by calling upon the names of the power symbols.

**Reincarnation:** A belief that the human soul will continue to reincarnate until that person reaches a state of perfection. This belief is prevalent for many involved with the New Age movement or with Hinduism, Sikhism, and other Eastern religions.

**Runecasting:** A Norwegian form of divination that uses a collection of twenty-four stones, each carved with a Norse letter. The stones are drawn from the bag, and laid out in a spread to be read.

**Sacrilege:** Profaning or treating unworthily the people, places, objects, or sacraments that have been consecrated to God.

**Santeria:** A religion based on the worship of African Orishas that was brought to Cuba by the African slaves. Each Orisha is associated with a Catholic saint and oftentimes the rituals involve dancing, the casting of spells, and animal sacrifices.

**Satanism:** The worship of Satan by occult members who participate in satanic rituals.

**Séance:** A meeting led by a medium who enters a trance in order to communicate with the dead.

**Simony:** The buying or selling of spiritual powers. In Acts 8:9–24, Simon the magician tried to buy the power of God from Saint Peter who responded by saying, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"

**Spell:** An incantation accompanied by magical powers used to destroy a person, church, or society.

**Spirit guide:** A demonic entity that wants to enter a person's life. Once these entities have been granted permission to enter a person's life through the sin of idolatry, divination, or a number of other occult practices, it is very difficult to get them to leave.

**Spiritism:** The belief that natural objects have indwelling spirits.

**Stichomancy:** A form of divination that seeks to learn about the future by randomly selecting a passage from a book or other sacred writings. This procedure works by placing the book on its spine, and after it has been allowed to fall open to a random page, the person places his finger on the open page and reads the passage that was indicated.

**Superstition:** An irrational belief or practice that a person feels he needs to embrace or perform in order to bring about good luck.

**Talisman:** An object that has magical powers attached to it to bring a person good luck or prosperity.

**Tarot:** Divination by use of tarot cards. There are many different sets available like the Witches Tarot, Celtic Dragon Tarot, Egyptian Tarot, and even the Catholic Saints Tarot. A standard deck of tarot cards includes images like the fool, death, and the magician.

**Trance:** An altered state of consciousness that allows the person to communicate with spirits.

**Transcendental Meditation:** A technique of meditation derived from Hindu traditions that promotes deep relaxation through the use of a mantra.

**Translocation:** The movement of a person from one place to another by supernatural means.

**Transmigration:** A New Age belief that a soul can transfer itself into another body after death.

**Umbanda:** A religion based on the worship of African Orishas that was brought to Brazil by the African slaves during the colonial period. Each Orisha is associated with a Catholic saint, and oftentimes the rituals involve bloody sacrifices.

**Voodoo:** A form of witchcraft that started in Benin and spread throughout the world to nations like Haiti. Voodoo practitioners invite Loa spirits into themselves during the ceremonies, sacrifice animals, cast spells, and practice divination.

**White magick:** A form of magic where the participants believe they are casting "good spells" on other people, or helping the earth through positive forms of energy.

**Wicca:** A form of worship that makes use of ancient pagan, Celtic, and Egyptian practices. This form of worship occurs in nature and has developed a growing popularity among "feminists and others seeking a more woman-positive, earth-based religion."

**Witchcraft:** The use of supernatural powers for the purpose of obtaining and exercising control over other people, circumstances, or events.

**Yoga:** A Hindu system of body posture that uses meditation and mantras to help people achieve spiritual enlightenment, increased flexibility, and energy flow.

**Zodiac:** An ancient system of twelve signs in the sky used in future-telling. These signs include the following names of constellations: Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn.

# Notes

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