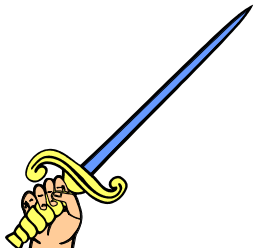


# Sword of Light & Truth

*“Speak the truth to one another...” Zec 8:16*



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## From the Publisher

*Summer  
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Dear Friends in Christ,

In October of 2004, the Lord put on my heart to start this ministry to keep myself and others informed of the false spiritualities that are being presented in our culture today and in Christian Churches as well. He also inspired me to write on the riches of our Catholic faith, especially the Eucharist. I welcome those who read my Spring newsletter and disagreed. I pray that the truth will stir your hearts and that the Lord will provide the graces to those hearts who are open to change. I want to thank all of those who support my ministry and those who have given generously to the cause. Please continue to help me in this endeavor by passing this newsletter on to others. Thank you and may God bless you.

*Anne Feaster*

### More on Centering Prayer

In the last newsletter, we introduced Centering Prayer (CP). I know there are people who go to workshops on CP and think that the sacred word is to get rid of distracting thoughts in order to focus on Jesus. This is a great way to pray, but this is not what Fr. Keating and Fr. Pennington are teaching in their books. If you read further into their books, you will see that they are recommending that you get rid of all thoughts and feelings to reach a state of pure consciousness and discover the True Self. Fr. Keating says, **“The method consists of letting go of every thought during the time of prayer, even the most devout thoughts.”**(*Open Mind, Open Heart*, p.35) The sacred word, if said often enough, is like a mantra which has the very special effect of emptying the mind and it leads to an altered level of consciousness (ALC) or semi-hypnotic state. This state of mind, often called pure consciousness, is referred to by Keating in the same book, on pages 51, 73, and 74. Mantras, ALC's, and the True Self are identified as New Age in the Vatican Document, *Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life*. CP is almost identical to Transcendental Meditation™. Both CP and TM use a mantra to erase all thoughts and feelings, and they both teach that in this meditation you pick up vibrations. Both CP and TM teach that this meditation will give you more peace and less tension and how to reach ALC's. They have the common goal of finding your god-center. St. Teresa of Avila calls prayer a conversation with God and she does not recommend emptying the mind and neither does St. John of the Cross. In fact, the leaders of the Lay Carmelites do not recommend Centering Prayer.

**What does St. John of the Cross teach about contemplation?** In Chapter 10 of the *Dark Night of the Soul*, he describes a soul being purged in a supernatural way by God. That soul is being lifted up to God with a special grace beyond discursive (reasoning) meditation or normal prayer. It is God's action on the soul, and the person has no control over the situation. The soul is being purified by God. Some people are confused by this chapter and think that this experience is for everyone and that it can be self-induced.

**What are the spiritual dangers of the New Age?**

Involvement in New Age can weaken a person's Christian faith. Even if a person thinks the practice is harmless, evil spirits can become present. New Age practices can be tied to the occult and participation in them would be grave mortal sin, depending upon the practice and the person's knowledge of wrongdoing. Most people are unaware of the direct contact with the occult and evil spirits through the New Age. They believe that New Age is harmless. This is far from the truth and can put one's soul in grave jeopardy. Fr. Amorth, the Vatican exorcist, sees thousands of people a year who are in need of deliverance from evil spirits. He says that occult spirits are the most difficult to drive out. Although demon possession is rare, many people are in need of deliverance as Mary Magdalene was. Jesus drove out of her seven demons. (Luke 8:2) Anyone who has been involved with New Age practices or beliefs should formally renounce these activities and seek sacramental confession.

**How did New Age concepts get into Catholic circles?**

They came in from the writings of Carl Jung, Teilhard de Chardin, Meister Eckhart, Anthony DeMello, Thomas Merton, Matthew Fox, Thomas Keating, and Basil Pennington. The Vatican document lists the writers who had the most influence on New Agers, among whom are **CARL JUNG, TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, AND THOMAS MERTON.** (See *Jesus Christ, the Bearer of the Water of Life*, #9.2)

**Was Carl Jung a New Ager?** Yes, in many ways. He was a Swiss psychologist and psychiatrist, who was pantheistic in his thinking. (Pantheism is the belief that everything is God) He said "I am a splinter of the infinite deity..." (*Catholics and the New Age*, by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, p 54) He also taught about energy centers according to Actress Shirley MacLaine. "Carl G. Jung claimed that chakras (energy centers in man) were the gateways of consciousness in man, receptive points for the inflow of energies from the cosmos and the spirit and soul of man; that the chakras are always aligned with the divine God energy because they are the creation of the soul"(*Going Within* by Shirley MacLaine, p.115) Of Jesus, Jung said "Jesus was to me unquestionably a man and therefore a fallen figure, or else a mere mouthpiece of the Holy Ghost" (*Catholics and the New Age* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, p. 58 quoting Jung in *Dreams, Memories, and Reflections*, p.98) He also believed Christ to be an embodiment of the self, like Buddha. He was Gnostic in

his thinking and believed that religious truths lie within us as other New Agers do.(Gnosticism is the belief that salvation comes through secret knowledge) He rejected dogmas and truths revealed in Scripture and believed that personal experience of God replaced faith in dogma. He believed dreams to be private revelation, and thought that they were more authoritative than the Bible. Jung also practiced occult techniques on his patients. His mother was the daughter of a medium. Her father, Carl's grandfather, used to have his weekly Sunday séances with his then deceased first wife. His mother, fascinated with Eastern religions, would read him bedtime stories of tales of the Far East from occult sources. When he was young, he felt that he had TWO PERSONALITIES. One of these personalities was a wise old man who influenced him. (*The New Age Counterfeit* by Johnnette Benkovic, p. 97) Unfortunately, many Catholics have read Carl Jung and follow his ideas that conflict with Christian truths rather than the teachings of the Church. They are called Jungian Catholics, and no longer believe in heaven, hell, or Christ's divinity.

**Who was Teilhard de Chardin and what did he teach?**

He was a French Jesuit priest and paleontologist who tried to reformulate the faith with evolution at its center. He was involved with the amateur fossil hunters in the discovery of the **fraudulent** Piltdown Man in 1912-1913.(*Catholic Replies* by Drummey, Book 1, p.431&432) In 1924, he wrote an essay in which he denied the Fall of Man, and the existence of Adam and Eve. Rome demanded a retraction and he signed. He later wrote *Divine Milieu, Human Energy, and the Phenomenon of Man*, all of which were banned by the Vatican. In 1957, the Holy Office **ordered the withdrawal of his works from Catholic libraries, religious institutions and bookstores.** In 1962, Pope John XXIII issued a warning against "serious errors" in Teilhard's works. In 1981, *L'Osservatore Romano* states that the warning is still in effect. (*Unicorn in the Sanctuary* by Randy England, p.82-83) Teilhard believed in two kinds of energy. The first was tangential energy, a physical energy which surrounds us. He also believed in a second form of energy which he called radial energy. "This internal energy or "the within" might be called spiritual or psychic energy." "He seems to suggest that this radial energy or consciousness can be equated with God". (*Unicorn in the Sanctuary*, by Randy England, p. 84) The belief is similar to the New Age concept that God is an impersonal energy force. "As a biologist, he spoke of **salvation as the evolution of consciousness** to higher and higher levels approaching Christ's perfect consciousness." (*Encyclopedia of Religion, Volume 6*, p.381) To put it in simple terms, the evolution of consciousness leads to the realization that the self is God. The end would be a "cosmic terminus for evolution called the "Omega Point" where all being will be gathered into a final divine union."(*Encyclopedia of Religion, Volume 5*, p.212)This Omega Point is also described in Pennington's book, *True Self, False Self*, p.60-61.On the back cover of this book, , it states that Pennington has integrated his spirituality with that of

Teilhard and Thomas Merton. (Merton embraced the Eastern religions at the end of his life) Teilhard also believed, like many New Agers, that the answer to the world's problems was a ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT. In *Human Energy*, on p. 37, he states, "The age of nations has passed. Now unless we wish to perish we must shake off our old prejudices and build the earth". He also says on p. 134, "No serious progress can be made except under two conditions: the first, that the proposed organization must be international and in the end totalitarian, and secondly, it must be conceived on a very large scale."

**Did Anthony de Mello teach New Age?** Yes. There were many New Age ideas in the writings of DeMello, even in his early works. On 8/28/98, the Vatican sent out a "Notification concerning the writings of Fr. Anthony DeMello SS Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith." The publication warned the faithful that some of his statements are "incompatible with the Catholic Faith and can cause grave harm." Cardinal Ratzinger states on p.1 "But already in certain passages in these early works and to a greater degree in his later publications, one notices a progressive distancing from the essential content of the Christian Faith. In place of the revelation which has come in the person of Jesus Christ, he substitutes an intuition of God without form or image to the point of speaking of God as pure void." On p. 5, Ratzinger quotes DeMello in a shocking statement about Jesus. From his book, *Awareness*, DeMello said "The lovely thing about Jesus is that he was so at home with sinners, because he understood he wasn't one bit better than they were. The only difference between Jesus and those others was that he was awake and they weren't." (New Agers believe that Jesus was just a mere man who discovered he was god, and that they too can become god by discovering their own divinity.) Some of his books that Cardinal Ratzinger cited were *Sadana, A Way to God, The Song of the Bird, Wellsprings, One Minute Wisdom, Prayer of the Frog, Awareness, Contact with God, Call to Love: Meditations, One Minute Nonsense*. In short, these books are not recommended.

**Did Thomas Merton turn to Eastern religions?** Yes. In his later years, Merton went on a journey to Asia after much study of the Eastern religions. As he departed from the U.S., Merton said that he left with "a great sense of destiny, of being at last on my way after years of waiting and wondering and fooling around" (*Asian Journal of Thomas Merton*, p.4) In the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, p.390, it says, "In the final years of his life, Merton was committed to Hindu and Buddhist Spiritual wisdom without diminishing his attachment to Catholic Christianity. Zen Buddhism most especially appealed to Merton because of its emphasis on experience rather than doctrine. He searched for God through participation in the ancient spiritualities of Asia on a long journey to the East that was his personal pilgrimage and a metaphor of his life." In a video of Merton's life, he describes an experience in Asia. Standing before a statue of Buddha,

he says he was on the verge of the most moving experience of his life. He said "My Asian pilgrimage has come clear and purified itself. I mean I know and have seen what I was obscurely looking for." (Excerpts from "Merton" A Film Biography by Wilkes and Glynn) *Time Magazine* (Aug. 6, 1973) reported that "his" (Merton's) death prompted friends to speculate whether Merton would have ever returned to the U.S. from his enthusiastic plunge into Buddhism." Some Buddhists revere Merton as a reincarnated Buddha. He was also attracted to Hinduism. Shortly before his death, he wrote an admiring introduction to a new translation of the Bhagavad Gita, the most important of the Hindu scriptures. (*The Unicorn in the Sanctuary* by Randy England) At times, Merton was critical of Christianity. He viewed the Catholic life as inducing "all forms of neurosis and anxiety". "The way the Christian life is lived," he said, "is so schizophrenic that it is a wonder one can be at the same time Christian and sane." (*Unicorn in the Sanctuary*, p.75) It is sad that someone as gifted as Merton would have wanted to seek the "wisdom" of Eastern religions when the Catholic Faith contains all of the truths revealed in Scripture and Sacred Tradition. We must keep in mind that the non-Christian religions were searching for God. In Christianity, we have already found Him.

**What did Fr. Keating teach?** In his books, he teaches some of the same concepts that are taught in the New Age Movement. For example, all through his books, he promotes the idea of finding the True Self, which originates from Hinduism. It is the belief that the human soul is the same as God. Keating states, "God and our true Self are not separate. Though we are not God, God and our true Self are the same thing." (*Open Mind, Open Heart*, p. 127) He also gives a strange definition of the Eucharist which reflects New Age thought. He says, "The Eucharist is the celebration of life: the coming together of all the material elements of the cosmos, their emergence to consciousness in human persons and the transformation of human consciousness into Divine consciousness." First of all, the Eucharist is not composed of all of the elements of the universe. It is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, the statement regarding consciousness is the basic belief of New Agers, that we are all one and that we are all God. In his book, *Invitation to Love*, on p.102, Keating speaks of our God as a divine energy as New Agers do. He says, ". . . the divine energy in itself is infinite potentiality and actuality." He also speaks of "melting into God" which is a New Age belief. (*Open Mind, Open Heart*, p. 49)

There are other New Age ideas presented in his books. (See my original article on Centering Prayer for more information) In my next newsletter, there will be information on Meister Eckhart, Fr. Basil Pennington, and Matthew Fox, all of whom introduced New Age ideas into our Church. We will also explore what Pope John Paul II had to say about the spiritual dangers of the New Age Movement.

To order articles and fact sheets on the New Age, call Sword of Light & Truth Ministries at 770-921-1634.

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All articles, tapes, and publications from *Sword of Light & Truth Ministries, Inc.* are free. Donations are appreciated.

For further information on the New Age Movement, go to Clare Merkle's website, [crossveil.org](http://crossveil.org). Videos on Merkle also available at EWTN 1-800-854-6316 or Living His Life Abundantly- 1-800-558-5452

#### Recommended Books

*The New Age Counterfeit*, by Johnette Benkovic. To order, call Living His Life Abundantly 1-800-558-5452. Also available is a tape series on New Age.

*Catholics and the New Age* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa To order, call EWTN 1-800-854-6316

## REVELATIONS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

By St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

One night in her cell, St. Faustina saw over her the Sacred Host in great brightness. Then she said, "I heard a voice that seemed to be coming from above the Host. It said, **"In the host is your power; it will defend you."** Then she said, "After these words, the vision disappeared, but a strange power entered my soul, and a strange light as to what our love for God consists in; namely, in doing His will (Section 616 of her Diary)

She describes another experience in her diary. She says "Once, the image (the Divine Mercy Image) was being exhibited over the altar during the Corpus Christi procession (June 20, 1935). When the priest exposed the Blessed Sacrament, and the choir began to sing, the rays from the image pierced the Sacred Host and spread out all over the world. Then I heard these words: **"These rays of mercy pass through you, just as they have passed through this Host, and they will go out through all the world."** At these words, profound joy invaded my soul. (441)

She relates another experience: "During the Holy Mass, I saw the Infant Jesus in the chalice, and He said to me, **"I am dwelling in your heart as you see Me in this chalice"** (1820)

One day after Communion, Jesus told her how much He desires to come to human hearts. He said, **"I desire to unite Myself with souls. Know, My daughter, that when I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay any attention to Me: they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things. Oh, how sad I am that souls do not recognize Love! They treat me as a dead object."**

Another time, St. Faustina did not go to Communion because she judged herself unworthy. After she went to Confession, she received Holy Communion and then she saw the Lord Jesus, who said to her, **"Know my daughter, that you caused Me more sorrow by not uniting yourself with Me in Holy Communion than you did by that small transgression."** (612) The Lord has so much more for us and is there patiently waiting for us to recognize the preciousness of the Eucharist.

(From the Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska)

In the next newsletter, we will continue the revelations on the Holy Eucharist from St. Faustina, taken from her diary.

**"Proclaim the message, insist on it, in season and out of season, refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience, but do it all with patience and sound doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:2**