



Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition

Linked to Presentation DS28: *Christian Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition*

Catholic spirituality has, historically, been shaped throughout the centuries from the teachings of the _____, through the _____ of the Church, _____, _____, _____ and the evolving _____ of the Church.

Through the Sacred Scriptures, Christian spirituality is:

- related to...
- creation-centred which implies...
- God's engagement with humanity and is expressed...

Spirituality of the Early Church (50-500 CE)

Spirituality in the early Church was communal or social - within the community of believers they shared a common life, shared rituals and was expressed ideally in mutual love and acceptance.

Match the correct term with its meaning.

Christocentric		<i>A person inspired by the love of God who practises penance, prayer and self-control to an extraordinary degree.</i>
Eschatological		<i>Relating to liturgy or public worship.</i>
Ascetic		<i>Making Christ the centre. A doctrinal term within Christianity, describing theological positions that focus on Jesus Christ.</i>
Liturgical		<i>Relating to end-time; death, the second coming of Jesus Christ.</i>



Mediaeval Spirituality (500-1500 CE)

Who were the *Mendicants*?

	Describe their spirituality.
Francis of Assisi and The Franciscans	
Thomas Aquinas and The Dominicans	

Renaissance and Reformation Spirituality (1500- 1600CE)

A time of renewal and rebirth.

Spirituality was expressed during this period through:

- the practice of...
- the rise of...
- an increased interest in...

Mysticism in the Christian tradition is the experience of _____ or _____ with God.

Union with God means the experience of being so close to the _____ with God that one loses one's self-identity in God's _____.

	Describe their spirituality.
Teresa of Avila	
John of the Cross	
Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) and Early Ignatian Spirituality	
Laity	

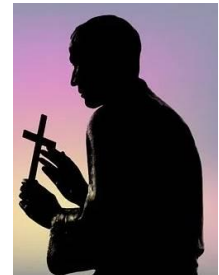


Modern Spirituality (1700- 1900CE)

Catholic spirituality in the Twentieth Century was fashioned on the _____ school and was mostly Christocentric, firmly rooted in the Christology of St _____ and the theology of St _____.

According to Yves Congar there were two great witnesses to the power and efficacy of the contemplative life.

Name the two figures. What did their spirituality emphasise?



During this time a large number of new religious congregations were founded, especially for women.

- Name one order founded in Australia.
- What did their order's spirituality emphasise?

The **Twentieth Century** was a period of immense change - culturally, socially and religiously. (1900-2000)

A key event of this time - Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), had a great impact not only on the Roman Catholic tradition but on Christianity as a whole.

Vatican II reformed the area of spirituality in three ways. Name these areas.



Christian Spirituality Today

Contemporary understanding of Christian spirituality:

- rests on the premise that it is a _____ and _____ spirituality.
- is more _____.
- tends to stress the singular importance of the concrete experience of _____ for God, and of finding appropriate ways to _____ out one's response to the divine initiative.
- is intrinsically _____, social and political.
- increasingly looks towards the protection, _____ and care for the earth and the earth's _____.
- Writings of today show a strong commitment to find solutions to the problems that Christians face by retrieving the riches of the _____.

Today Where to now!!!!

Reflect on the spirituality of today.

How is “spirituality” expressed in your local Parish?





Solutions to Worksheet PLS-PL548: Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition

Catholic spirituality has, historically, been shaped throughout the centuries from the teachings of the **Sacred Scriptures**, through the **Fathers** of the Church, **theologians**, **mystics**, **saints** and the evolving **magisterium** of the Church.

Through the Sacred Scriptures Christian spirituality is:

- related to understating God and God's relationship to the world and humanity.
- creation-centred which implies all of creation is a gift from a loving God.
- God's engagement with humanity and is expressed through his son Jesus.

Christocentric	Making Christ the centre. A doctrinal term within Christianity, describing theological positions that focus on Jesus Christ.
Eschatological	Relating to end-time; death, the second coming of Jesus Christ.
Ascetic	A person inspired by the love of God who practises penance, prayer and self-control to an extraordinary degree.
Liturgical	Relating to liturgy or public worship.

The mendicants were begging orders. For example, Dominicans, the Franciscans, the Carmelites and the Augustinians.

	Describe their spirituality.
Francis of Assisi and The Franciscans	Francis' spirituality was one of joyful abandonment to God and His creation.
Thomas Aquinas and The Dominicans	Spirituality is focused on the piety of learning.

Spirituality was expressed during this period through:

- the practice of pilgrimages.
- the rise of religious observance.
- an increased interest in mysticism.

Mysticism in the Christian tradition is the experience of union or communion with God. Union with God means the experience of being so close to the oneness with God that one loses one's self-identity in God's Presence.

	Describe their spirituality.
Teresa of Avila	Meditative and contemplative.
John of the Cross	Meditative and contemplative.
Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) and Early Ignatian Spirituality	Focuses on the examination of conscience and the discernment of God's action in one's life.
Laity	One of withdrawal from the world, fortified by well-regulated spiritual exercises and definite methods of prayer.

Catholic spirituality in the Twentieth Century was fashioned on the French school and was mostly Christocentric, firmly rooted in the Christology of St Paul and the theology of St Augustine.

Thérèse of Lisieux (1875 -1897)

Thérèse's spirituality emphasised the need for fidelity to the ordinary duties of one's state of life, the importance of love as a motivating power, and the cultivation of a filial trust in the heavenly Father.

Charles de Foucauld (1858- 1916)

A new form of contemplative life was introduced, a contemplative life lived in the world:

- with silence as a means of influence,
- presence as a method of communication, and
- poverty as a witness to fraternal love for the poor and needy in whose midst the Little Brothers and the Little Sisters live.

Vatican II reformed the area of spirituality in three ways. Name these areas.

1. It augmented the growth of spiritual movements among the laity.
2. It emphasised the importance of works of mercy and justice along with spiritual activities of prayer and meditation.
3. It acknowledged the possibility of salvation outside the Christian revelation. Hence, spirituality could also be enriched through dialogue with other religious traditions.



Contemporary understanding of Christian spirituality:

- rests on the premise that it is a **liturgical** and **scriptural** spirituality.
- is more **holistic**.
- tends to stress the singular importance of the concrete experience of **searching** for God, and of finding appropriate ways to **live** out one's response to the divine initiative.
- is intrinsically **relational**, social and political.
- increasingly looks towards the protection, **preservation** and care for the earth and the earth's **resources**.
- Writings of today show a strong commitment to find solutions to the problems that Christians face by retrieving the riches of the **past**.