

# Contemplative Spirituality And Roman Catholicism

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In January 2007 at [Missions Fest](#) Vancouver BC we introduced a new article, [Contemplative Spirituality](#) which gives a brief three-page definition of what the contemplative movement actually is. During this event we had a visitor concerned about the introduction of the contemplative movement into his Baptist denomination regarding an upcoming event in his church being facilitated by the pastor from another Baptist church. The following is how this talk was advertised in the February 2007 brochure of the First Baptist Church:

## SERVE AND GROW

### Two Spiritual Formation Opportunities In February

"A Sacrifice of Time".....An introduction to contemplative prayer in preparation for **Lent**, facilitated by Rob Des Cotes, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church.

In viewing this advertisement we can see at least two areas of major concern challenging biblical doctrine through the promotion of deception. The first area deals with the contemplative movement, in it's various forms, being introduced across denominational boundaries throughout Christianity. Our web section on [Contemplative Spirituality](#) provides resources with links to ministries who have devoted considerable research in this area of deception. For additional information we have a brief summary from the first edition of Ray Yungen's book [A Time Of Departing](#). The 2006-second edition available from [Lighthouse Trails Publishing](#) has been expanded with updated information including a discussion on the Purpose Driven movement. With this information it becomes readily apparent that Scripture is being rapidly fulfilled in these last days where we are being subjected to false doctrines with great numbers of New Age mystics appearing as church leaders preaching occult deception from the pulpits of our churches.

The second area of concern is related to the first in that the contemplative movement was first practiced by the Roman Catholic Church through a process of assimilation. As a religious system assimilating entire cultures over the centuries it adopted many of the pagan forms of worship specifically condemned by God. Eastern mysticism was one of these pagan forms of worship adopted by the early Roman Church which influenced what evolved into a part of its Church Traditions. The contemplative traditions of the Roman Catholic Church parallel New Age mysticism, which has nothing new about it other than its name and some modern innovation to repackage ancient pagan mystical practices. The greater part of these mystical forms of worship are directly related to Eastern mysticism and can be traced back to this source of origin. These things effecting Catholics and Protestants are expanded upon with resources in [Catholicism](#) and in our new web section [Roman Catholicism](#).

As a religious system attempting to achieve world dominance the Roman Catholic Church has continually waged war throughout its violent history in a deadly reign of terror. History records entire Christian groups battled into extinction who had simply refused submission to a form of worship contrary to Scripture. Their only crime against the Roman Church was to recognize God's Word as their absolute authority choosing to be obedient to God rather than the Supreme Pontiff of Rome. In 1517 Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic monk, studied the Bible and protested against the Roman system joining the Protestant Reformation with those who chose to serve the God of Israel rather than

pagan forms of worship. Rome, however, in its ruthless persistence continued with warfare and inquisitions attempting to eliminate all who would resist its authority. Even today Rome continues to utilize its vast wealth and resources to once again force nations around the world into submission to its Roman authority. With over 1 billion Roman Catholics taught to rely on Rome for their salvation loyalty to the Vatican is required for an eternal destiny interpreted by Roman authority rather than God's authority.

Rome's persistence using trained agents within the ecumenical movement during the past century began to achieve modest success in transposing its pagan heritage into Protestant denominations susceptible to its influence. What became acceptable to the Anglican denomination began to take root in other Protestant denominations. As the Anglican denomination began to shift back to Roman authority other denominations began to be receptive to Rome's paganism. On February 19, 2007 we received a news article reporting proposals being drafted for the Anglican membership to recognize the Pope as their spiritual authority. This news release can be viewed on line at [Roman Catholicism and the Anglican Church](#) in our web section [Roman Catholicism](#). Due to Roman inroads much of the Protestant world is now willing to join together in a united fellowship viewing Roman Catholic traditions as methods for spiritual advancement. As a result we now have Protestant churches practicing Roman Catholic rituals without discernment of the occult nature behind these rituals. Referring to the First Baptist Church's brochure we read, "An introduction to contemplative prayer in preparation for Lent, ...". Lent is the 40-day preparation for Easter promoted by Rome as a replacement for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread in Scripture. From Rome's pagan roots we find out that Easter is actually a Roman celebration to the Babylonian goddess Ishtar and has nothing to do with Jesus our Passover Redeemer. Considering the range of practices and rituals being adopted from Roman paganism it becomes apparent that spiritual compromise has had a direct effect on the Catholic and Protestant witness for the Gospel.

As Christians who have received Jesus as our Savior we recognize that our heritage is based in biblical Jewish roots and that God redeemed the Jewish people from all the nations of the world to receive His covenant promises. Bringing His free gift of salvation through grace and not by works was something Satan attempted to interfere with. Shortly after the birth of Jesus the Roman army was sent to kill all the boy children in Bethlehem attempting to stop God's plan of salvation through Messiah. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman authority shifted to the Roman Catholic Church, which began to wage war upon a Scriptural knowledge of our Jewish heritage and God's invitation to all of us to receive salvation as a free gift through His Son. Rome began teaching that there was no salvation outside of its church and that salvation was earned by working through its Sacraments. Richard Bennett a former Roman Catholic priest responds with his article [Salvation and the Sacraments](#).

In order to create a counterfeit Rome had to promote doctrines that would distance its followers from Scripture and God's grace through Jesus. One of Rome's greatest problems was the existence of the Jewish people and those covenant promises God had made to them, especially promises in which all the peoples and nations would be blessed through the Jewish people. As long as there were Jewish people God's covenant promises were in effect. As Rome had once tried to kill our newborn Messiah, Rome would now try to kill the Jewish people and take care of those covenant promises. Down through the centuries from nation to nation wherever Rome's influence extended the Jewish people were slaughtered. In the Middle Ages Jews were forced to renounce their Judaism and convert to Roman Catholicism upon penalty of torture and death in submission to its authority rather than God's authority. Through its relentless slaughter Jewish survivors could only fear Rome's counterfeit Christianity and the Roman christ. Rome had found an effective way to divert the Jewish people away from receiving God's covenant promises through Messiah while killing them in the name of Christ. Jews relentlessly slaughtered and persecuted for centuries in the name of Jesus

have a difficult time to receive Him as God's promised Messiah. If those Jews who managed to survive would renounce God's covenant promise in Messiah Rome's problem would be over. In the wake of this persecution we have to remember that many Protestants either joined in or ignored the plight of the Jewish people. As a result most Jewish people are unaware of any difference between Roman Catholicism or Protestant Christianity. Our witness to Jewish people concerning their Messiah has driven most of them away from God's covenant promise to become a blessing to all the people and nations of the world. Fortunately there are Protestants and born-again Catholics who are receiving God's blessings through Jesus to make the Jewish people jealous for their Messiah.

Many people have forgotten or were never told that Franco, Mussolini and Hitler, just to name a few, were Roman Catholics subject to Rome. Or that there never would have been a Holocaust except for Rome's determination to destroy the Jewish people, God's channel to bless the nations. Even today the Jewish people remain an obstacle to Rome's quest for world domination. Wanting to build a Temple to establish its spiritual headquarters on Mt. Zion the Jewish people continue to be a barrier to this plan. To eliminate the Israeli problem Rome helps to fund the enemies of Israel, provides intelligence and uses its global influence manipulating public opinion towards a final solution regarding Israel and the Jewish people. World war has simply been an extension from centuries of Roman inquisition. It is conservatively estimated that since its creation in the 4<sup>th</sup> century Rome has directly and indirectly murdered 80-100 million people. This is the spiritual heritage of the Roman Catholic Church and what so many in the Protestant Church are running towards. Instead of being joint heirs with Israel we are entertaining spiritual fornication with MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. She sits upon seven hills and reigns over the kings of the earth. To those who will listen God says, "Come out of her, My people, that ye not partake of her sins and that ye receive not of her plaques". Revelations chapters 17 – 18. This is God's warning to Catholics, Protestants and to all the nations of the world to flee doctrines of demons.

While the destruction of Israel is an imperative for the construction of a Roman Catholic Temple on Mt. Zion another major problem for Rome is America a predominately Protestant nation defending the State of Israel. Building compromise in America's support for Israel has taken considerable time and effort. Sources estimate that Roman Catholics relying on Rome for their salvation now occupy a disproportionate ratio in U.S. government. This becomes even more alarming when considering Rome's intelligence network able to gather and relay sensitive materials through confessionals along with Jesuit trained operatives throughout every level of U.S. government including the Protestant Churches of America. Plans pertaining to U.S. foreign policy are quickly dissected by Roman intelligence, manipulated by Roman influence and acted upon by Roman Catholics exclusively subject to Rome. For example, during WWII the U.S. Catholic Action League 1936 - 1942 using various methods including radio broadcasting was able to influence millions of Americans while generating support for the Nazi regime. Nazi aggression was called, 'a battle for Christianity' promoted by Pope Pius XII praying for a Nazi victory. Meanwhile 6 million Jews along with those who opposed Rome were being brutally exterminated without either public knowledge or public reaction while Catholic Action assisted the Nazi war effort using its global network. Nations including Canada and America influenced by Catholic Action were responsible for returning Jewish refugees escaping Europe back to face a Roman inspired inquisition in European death camps. A Nazi victory would have eliminated the Jewish problem of Jews returning to their national homeland promised in Scripture and by England in WW I. WW II was a disaster for Rome's Mt. Zion Temple following the defeat of Hitler, Mussolini and those loyal to Rome. Considered a major setback to its agenda Rome continues to restructure global plans creating war and rumors of war whenever such serves its purpose. Pitting nation against nation Rome moves closer to a one-world government and a one-world religion. Negotiating treaties with Islamic allies it moves forward with plans for a Mt.

Zion Temple as the spiritual headquarters of a one-world religion. Manipulating European politics Europe is being prepared for a new wave of inquisition. In our web section [Links-Jewish](#) Richard Bennett provides information regarding Roman Catholic nations forming the E U with reference to the Holocaust in [Papal Rome and the European Union](#).

Referring back to the First Baptist Church brochure we see that Pastor Rob Des Cotes is the pastor of a Baptist Church which raises concern regarding the Roman Catholic issue noted in this brochure. Going to his web site we are even more amazed by what we find and have attached three pages to allow you to draw your own conclusions. In the first page we note Pastor Cotes as the director of Imago Dei teaching Contemplative Traditions at Christian schools including Trinity Western University and Columbia Bible College, a college with the Mennonite Brethren denomination. On the next page we see the Imago Dei Christian Community promoting **Spiritual Direction**. To obtain information about the recommended Spiritual Directors on this page we went to the web site provided [www.sdiworld.org](http://www.sdiworld.org). On this site we found a Spirituality Center offering spiritual direction to Protestants, Jews and Muslims seeking spiritual direction from Roman Catholic spiritual directors. We have also attached the first page from an Imago Dei Award Dinner hosted by the Roman Catholic secret society the Knights of Columbus.

To understand the significance of receiving spiritual direction from Roman Catholic sources it's necessary to obtain information from those who submit to God's Word as their source of authority. Any other source of spiritual authority is clearly identified in Scripture as doctrines promoted by demons under a satanic authority. Richard Bennett offers his [testimony](#) as the witness of a former Roman Catholic priest with his love and passion towards Catholics that they would be set free in Jesus from bondage to deception. In his website [www.BereanBerean.org](http://www.BereanBerean.org) we are warned of wickedness in high places through articles such as [An Overview of the History of the Papacy](#).

While contemplative spiritual traditions promoted through the influence of Roman Catholicism brings the Protestant Church back into spiritual unity with Rome many within the Christian community across the denominational boundaries have lamented how the Christian Church has become lukewarm and ineffectual for the Gospel. That the days have gone by when we once had great men of God who preached the need for repentance to a lost and dying world. How repentance was then followed by revival that changed nations. In exchange for repentance we now have entertainment with a Roman Catholic love message involving mystical traditions blending paganism with Christian terms. 'For these false apostles are deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ'. 2 Corinthians 11:13. We have Freemasonry, the Knights of Columbus, spiritual directors and New Age mystics working with great commitment and success to exchange our Christian Churches for Temples of Demons. In these final days God's covenant promises remain in effect to the Jewish people extended to all peoples and nations to become joint heirs in Jesus, Yeshua. Not through a counterfeit involving false doctrines with a false plan of salvation through works or submission to Rome's authority rather than God's authority. Time is short with decisions to be made to whom you will choose to serve whether the purity of the Gospel unto life or doctrines of demons unto death. God is seeking those with a repentant heart open to the resurrection life of His Son for those wanting to receive His free gift of salvation through grace. If God testifies that salvation is a free gift how can it be purchased with money through Mass or [Indulgences](#)? Either God is a liar Who can also be bribed with what He already owns or the Roman Catholic Church has been built upon the sales of false doctrines. If you are a Roman Catholic unsure of what this means or the state of your salvation involving works rather than grace just simply trust in God's Word to receive His free gift of salvation through Jesus. Any questions or concerns you might have can be answered through the resources provided by Richard Bennett's ministry.

# Imago Dei Christian Community

*a community drawn to Christ*

## Welcome

**Imago Dei** is a network of Christian faith communities based in Vancouver, British Columbia, with sister groups in other locations around B.C., as well as adherents in other countries. It is a ministry that has formed around principles of spiritual direction for the encouragement of a genuine experience of growth in the Christian spiritual life.

Imago Dei provides resources for the cultivation of the practice of prayer and the life of faith. It also models and encourages small fellowship groups for those who wish to pursue, in community with others, a growing communion with God in their lives.

### Our ministry is

- to encourage a deeper spirituality in the lives of Christians
- to help recognize and welcome God's transforming work in life
- to encourage a growing faith towards the life God is calling us to live in this world.



## IMAGO DEI

We offer spiritual direction and various resources for individual spiritual growth to all who desire encouragement. We also represent a community of faith that meets regularly for fellowship and support.



*a community drawn to Christ*

We refer to Imago Dei as “a community drawn to Christ” and the uncompleted pen drawing by Rembrandt that we use for our logo represents the ongoing question that inspires us in all we do—“Who are we becoming in Christ?”.

**Rob Des Cotes**, who directs Imago Dei, is a graduate of Regent College and is also pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Vancouver, B.C. He teaches Contemplative Traditions at Trinity Western University, as well as courses on spirituality and the arts at Carey Theological College and Columbia Bible College.

Imago Dei is affiliated with the MB denomination of BC.

# Imago Dei Christian Community

*a community drawn to Christ*

## *Finding Spiritual Direction*

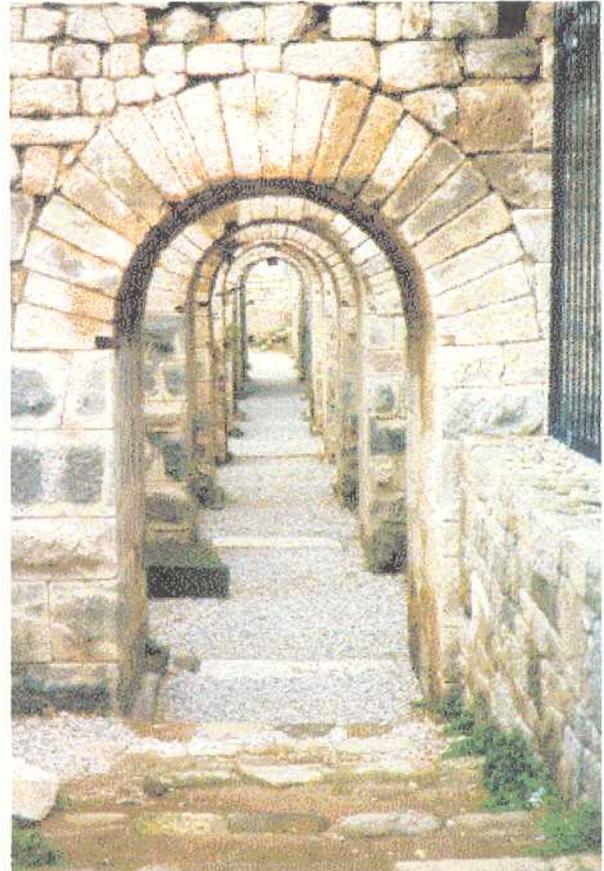
**Spiritual Direction:** Those wanting encouragement in the life of faith and prayer might consider the benefit of one-to-one spiritual direction. The goals of spiritual direction are:

- to help in experiencing and keeping kindled the presence of the Lord in our lives
- to help appraise our life stories in terms of God's purpose
- to help create a life-environment that is open to receiving God's graces
- to cultivate spiritual honesty with regards to all the drives and conflicts that form our unique self
- to learn how to keep growing as a Christian

If these represent your spiritual desires at this time, and if you live in the Vancouver area, you can e-mail us at [info@imagodeicommunity.ca](mailto:info@imagodeicommunity.ca) to set up a preliminary meeting time. We can also recommend other certified spiritual directors in the city.

If you live elsewhere, we would recommend Spiritual Directors International ([www.sdiworld.org](http://www.sdiworld.org)) as a good resource to find a qualified spiritual director in your area.

Rob Des Cotes  
Director, Imago Dei





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IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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## Remarks by Supreme Knight at Imago Dei Award Dinner

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4/29/2005

### Remarks by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson at the April 28 Imago Dei Award Dinner hosted by the Archdiocese of Denver

Excellency, thank you very, very much. It is a privilege and an honor to be with you this evening.

And I'm deeply grateful for the thoughtfulness of the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Denver -- and especially to you, Your Excellency -- for this distinguished award.

It is an award, the title of which must instill a greater humility on the part of its recipient and a greater effort to do more in the days ahead. For my part, I must say that one of the greatest blessings that I have had is to be associated with so many fine Christian men, Catholic men, in the Knights of Columbus. It has been a wonderful experience for me and something I look forward to in the days ahead. And I must say, too, that if I have achieved some measure of accomplishment which this award recognizes, it is largely due to the encouragement and the assistance that I have received over the years from many good and holy priests, that I have been blessed to know and to have worked with.

Some are bishops, some are in academia, many are pastors -- and some are in very small and remote parishes. All are vastly more deserving than me to receive this award because each one of these priests has been a true "imago Dei." And so I accept this award with the recognition that, if I could do so, I would confer it on each one of those priests this evening.

Earlier this month I had, as the Archbishop said, the occasion to be in Italy and I took that time to visit the regional seminary of Bologna, which was founded by Giacomo Cardinal Della Chiesa shortly before he became Pope Benedict XV. And carved above the entrance way to the seminary are the words "*in spes Ecclesiae*" -- "the hope of the Church."

Truly, seminarians are the hope of the Church. And today, more than ever, our Church and our world need good and holy priests -- men through whom the "imago Dei" will radiate as they minister the Church's sacraments "*in persona Christi*." And I am so pleased that the proceeds of this dinner will benefit the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Denver, represented so well here this evening.



Supreme Knight with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., of Denver.