

A Lenten Program based on Reading the Mystics

Each week concentrates on an important aspect of the message of the mystics, illustrating it by both an account of one or two classic mystical writers and a series of selected passages. The readings for each week range between 50 and 75 pages.

Texts:

Bernard McGinn and Patricia Ferris McGinn, *Early Christian Mystics: The Divine Vision of the Spiritual Masters* (New York: Crossroad, 2003)

Bernard McGinn, *The Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism* (New York: Random House, 2006)

1. First Week (Feb. 21-27, 2010). Reading of the Bible

Origen chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, pp. 21-40)

Texts: Section 1. Biblical Interpretation (*Essential Writings*, 3-46)

2. Second Week (Feb. 28-March 6, 2010). Asceticism and Suffering

Evagrius chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, pp. 41-58).

Texts: Section 2. Asceticism and Purgation (*Essential Writings*, 47-77)

Section 11. Distress and Dereliction (*Essential Writings*, 365-93)

3. Third Week (March 7-13, 2010). The Life of Prayer

John Cassian chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, pp. 59-75)

Texts: Section 3. Prayer, Liturgy, Sacraments (*Essential Writings*, 79-121)

4. Fourth Week (March 14-20). Compunction and Contemplation

Gregory the Great chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, 76-96)

Texts: Section 10. Vision, Contemplation, Rapture (*Essential Writings*, 309-64)

5. Fifth Week (March 31-27, 2010). The Role of the Trinity

William of St.-Thierry chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, 231-52)

Texts: Section 6. Living the Trinity (*Essential Writings*, 191-220)

6. Sixth Week (Holy Week, March 28-April 3, 2010). Finding Christ.

Augustine chapter and Bernard of Clairvaux chapter (*Early Christian Mystics*, 152-70, 207-30)

Texts: Section 7. Encountering Christ (*Essential Writings*, 221-50)

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