

Course: Backgrounds of the Liberal Catholic Church

An online course

1 Aims and scope

The Liberal Catholic Church in The Netherlands (LCC, or VKK in Dutch) offers an online course to members and interested parties. It covers the characteristic background of the Church.

The course is made up of modules with a number of deepening layers.

Each module is completed by answering a number of questions.

2 Layout of the modules

The course consists of 12 modules. Each module consists of:

- A paper
- Questions
- Intermediate Texts
- Additional literature
- A PowerPoint presentation (most of them).

3 Themes of the modules

The themes of the modules are:

1. An Understanding of God
2. The Christ
3. The Human Spiritual Constitution
4. Meditation as a Gateway to the Silence
5. Spiritual Psychology
6. Reincarnation and Karma
7. Death the Gateway to Life
8. The Angelic Kingdom
9. The Feminine Principle and Our Lady
10. The Church's Year as a Reflection of our own Spiritual Journey
11. Symbols and the Sacraments
12. The Holy Eucharist, the Central Act of Christian Worship

4 Clues for the study

The study of the literature involves knowledge, understanding and insight. To support this, a number of questions are given for each module, relating to its theme. But it is also important that you raise your own questions and make your own inquiries. These questions won't just help get a clear picture of what is being said, they will also help you clarify what your own experience or vision is.

The study supports your own spiritual development. This process can take place only by a focused commitment to your own spiritual growth. No book or study can do this. Inner transformation can only occur through a spiritually focused life, meditation and service to the world. The VKK emphasizes this road of transformation as an inner mystery education.

5 Way of studying

The study of each module will be rounded off by answering a number of questions. After that, access will be given to the next module. You can also ask questions yourself and communicate with a teacher.

The duration of the course will be largely determined by you.

6 Support

6.1 Online

Students and teachers work in a learning environment on the Internet ("Moodle"). In the event of any technical problems, the course is continued by normal e-mail.

6.2 Public lectures

Sometimes, public lectures were held focusing on some of the modules of the online course. The PowerPoint presentations of the lectures are added to the study materials.

6.3 Visits to Church communities

You can visit one of our churches and speak with the clergy there. Sometimes parishes organize introductory courses and lectures on specific topics with ample opportunity for discussion. See www.vkk.nl for information on the local parishes.

6.4 Organization

The course is organized and tutored by the Liberal Catholic Institute for Education (VKIE). The course is run with the aid of an online learning environment. In case of problems please contact online@vkk.nl or, if necessary, the coordinator, Gert Jan van der Steen, ++31-654-774547.

7 Costs

A financial contribution would be appreciated. Donations are used for the expenses, the library and for our community projects, such as the school project of our Church in Kinshasa, Congo. When you register for the course you will be given the opportunity to make a donation.

8 Further information and registration

Go to <http://intern.vkk.nl/online>. There you will receive further instructions.

In case you want to evaluate the course online and do not want to answer the questions in the course, you can initially follow the procedure for registration and login. When you are asked to answer a question you simply enter "evaluation". The system will then allow you to proceed with the next module.

9 Annex

9.1 History of the VKK

The "Vrij-Katholieke Kerk in Nederland" originated in 2003 when it separated itself from the Liberal Catholic Church worldwide (LCC). The main difference with the LCC is that the VKK admits women to all functions of the clergy. Since 2003 congregations in other countries joined and together now form the "Liberal Catholic Church, Progressive Branch".

9.2 History of the course

In recent years an increasing number of members and interested parties requested a course about the background of the VKK. The LCC has a great deal of study material of its own for the training of the clergy. Its profundity, however, makes it less suitable for an initial introduction. When we started the development of a new course it happened that the Liberal Catholic Church Grail Community, a sister movement in England, had just completed such a programme. Permission was given to use the material of this course, to bring it online and to supplement it with more in-depth texts and literature, so that a wide audience can be reached.

9.3 Grail Community papers

The papers of the Grail Community are introductory in character and take into account contemporary spirituality. They constitute the core texts of the online course.

9.4 Papers LCIS

For going a little deeper, some papers from the international Liberal Catholic Institute of Studies (LCIS) are used. These papers are also used for the training of the clergy. They include a variety of articles, book chapters and specially written texts.

9.5 Additional literature

For further background reading, additional literature is specified. Part of it belongs to the basic literature of the VKK. If you want to go even deeper, the literature of the study program for the clergy can be studied. Access is open to all, but the options for tutoring are limited. After following the online course you can enroll yourself through vkic@vkk.nl.

9.6 Language

The papers are in Dutch and in English. Additional literature is in English and sometimes in Dutch. The presentations are in the Dutch language only.

9.7 Copyright

The papers are copyrighted. However, the PowerPoint presentations may be reused.