

## **Retrieving Women's Voices: Four Doctors Of The Church:** Course Overview

Encounter four of the most remarkable women in the history of Christianity. Since 1970, the Roman Catholic Church has named four women "Doctors of the Church": Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Therese of Lisieux, and Hildegard of Bingen. Despite living in different countries, centuries, and cultural contexts, these saints continue to inspire us with their wisdom and faith.

Now, you can understand each woman's powerful theology, letting her spirituality guide your own life. As you explore the historical context that gave rise to their ideas, you will learn how to retrieve aspects of their theological thought in a critical and relevant way. In this course, you will see how their unique voices illustrate models of holy, complex, intelligent, and passionate Christians.

You will begin in the twelfth century with Hildegard of Bingen, whose theology of the Holy Spirit combines traditional ideas and images with a range of fresh metaphors, such as harmony of the spheres and the "greenness" of the earth. Moving through the Middle Ages, you will explore Catherine of Siena's theology of Incarnation, which relies on a wide range of earthy metaphors from everyday life. Then, you will examine Teresa's theology of the human person, in which she sees the believer as one with an infinite capacity for God. As you arrive in modern times, you will see how Therese of Lisieux's theology of the cross as a sign of love and joy emerged from her profound experience of suffering.

In meeting these women, you will see how their wisdom integrates theology and spirituality; doctrine and mysticism; contemplation and action; head and heart; theory and everyday life. And, as you will discover, the Church needs theology done by women more than ever. These Doctors of the Church help us broaden what we understand by "theology" and remind us that all Christians are invited to be theologians.

In this course, you will experience the depth, breadth, and complexity of the Christian theological tradition. Hildegard, Catherine, Teresa, and Therese will help you discover who you are as a Christian in the twenty-first century.

1. Women Doctors of the Church: Long Overdue Recognition
2. Theology and Spirituality: Mortal Enemies or Welcome Allies?
3. Hildegard of Bingen: Benedictine Abbess, Physician, Composer, and Theologian

4. Hildegard of Bingen: Theology of the Holy Spirit
5. Catherine's Siena: Public Ministry to Church and World
6. Catherine of Siena: Theology of Incarnation
7. Teresa of Avila: Theologian, Reformer, and Spiritual Guide
8. Teresa of Avila: Theology of the Human Person
9. Therese of Lisieux: 19th Century French Catholicism
10. Therese of Lisieux: Theology of the Cross
11. Women's Theology: Insight and Guidance for Our Time
12. Grassroots Theology: The Universal Call of Baptism