



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Alpha on course for Rome

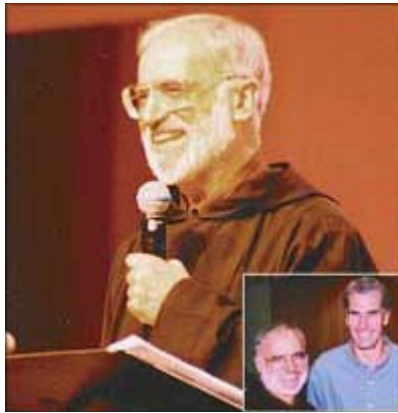


Cardinal Keeler and delegates at the Baltimore conference

However, the charges that it was at best a weak and theologically-flawed presentation of the gospel and would prove to be the latest ecumenical tool to advance union with Rome, are now seen to be fully justified.

The July--October edition of the United Kingdom edition of Alpha NEWS provides the evidence. We reproduce some of the words and a pictures from the printed edition. They speak for themselves.

This is an edited extract of what Cardinal Keeler said via video-link to delegates at the Baltimore Alpha conference in April: 'Because of long standing commitments to be in Rome during these days, I regret that I cannot be there in person to welcome you to this conference and to the Archdiocese of Baltimore.'



“Father” Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the Papal household, with a picture of him and Nicky Gumbel inset.

He has accepted an invitation from the Catholic Alpha office to give a series of talks on video. He has called the Alpha course, “a return to the fundamental things of the Christian faith.”

Need anything more be said about the true nature of the Alpha course?

Pope John Paul II has made the new evangelisation a major theme of the preparation of our church for the great Jubilee of the year 2000. Here in the archdiocese of Baltimore, several of our parishes and one of our campus ministry programmes have found that Alpha is a wonderful way to lead people, people with no Christian background as well as ordinary parishioners, to a personal encounter, a personal meeting, with the living Jesus Christ. In addition, those who complete the Alpha course are ready and eager to take part in the small communities that are forming in parishes - ready and eager to learn more about our church and her sacraments and to serve and evangelise others.' endorsement The Cardinal's warm endorsement of Alpha within the US is the latest of several significant endorsements of the course by senior Catholic churchmen around the world.

Editor's Note --The Alpha Course is aiding Rome to establish new parishes; it is spreading the errors of Rome!

170 French Catholics attend Alpha conferences in London

Around 170 French Catholics - including 30 priests - attended Alpha Conferences at Holy



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Trinity, Brompton, London, in February and June. The course's popularity is growing fast in France following the recent publication of the Alpha materials in French.

Some 120 French churchpeople attended the first conference and around 50 attended the second. A special live translation service was provided for the benefit of the French delegates, enabling them to listen to all the talks in French through headphones. Around 95 per cent of the French population are baptised as Catholics but only a small proportion attend church regularly.

Many of those who attended wrote letters of thanks to say how they were profoundly moved by what they heard at the conference and that they now intend to set up Alpha courses at their home churches.

Hundreds of other French Catholic leaders have attended special Alpha training sessions throughout France in recent months. By next year, it is believed that around 3,000 French church leaders will have received training in running Alpha courses. It is not known exactly how many courses are now running in France, but it is estimated that it will grow considerably during the next year.

Editor's Note --The *Alpha* Course is "profoundly" moving Roman Catholics, not out of her evil system but to a tighter embrace of her falsehoods.

In New Zealand, the Archbishop of Wellington, Cardinal Thomas Williams, opened an Alpha conference in July 1997, saying, 'News of Alpha has been spreading fast and many churches -my own included-are becoming eager to learn more of its content and method, and of what Alpha might do in energising the life and mission of our parishes.' After the conference, the Cardinal's Auxiliary Bishop of Wellington, Bishop John Dew, declared in his diocesan newspaper, 'Both Cardinal Tom and I would be very happy to see Alpha used within the Catholic Church.'

In Britain, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, wrote a warm message of welcome to hundreds of delegates attending three Catholic Alpha conferences held in Westminster Cathedral Hall. And during an official visit to the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College in Willesden, north London, in 1997, he spoke with schoolchildren attending a Youth Alpha course there.



The late Cardinal Hume

Several Catholic bishops have opened Alpha conferences in the UK, including the Rt. Rev'd Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, and the Rt. Rev'd Ambrose Griffiths, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

Bishop Griffiths told delegates, 'We want to evangelise, but we don't seem to have found the right method. I think that the Alpha course offers easily the best method so far invented.'



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Editor's Note --The message in *Alpha NEWS* is clear. Any course of instruction which builds and strengthens the Church of Rome must promote the doctrines of Rome. That being so, the inevitable result of Alpha being used in so-called Protestant churches will be the Romanising of them.