

# FEARLESS

## What are Catholic leaders saying about FEARLESS?

### **Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap. -Preacher to the Pontifical Household**

*What I have appreciated most in the "Fearless" documentary is that healings are not seen as a goal in themselves but as "signs" of the presence of the Kingdom and the compassion of God, just as they were in the ministry of Jesus. Actions speak louder than words, and miracles speak louder than teachings. Dr. Mary Healy's and Ralph Martin's commentaries provide a very sound catholic understanding of the charism of healing and if Fr. Mathias Thelen has convinced me, both in the way he performs live healing ministry and looks at us in the camera, he will certainly convince you.*

### **Bishop David O'Connell - Aux. LA**

*"Fearless" gives me hope that what the Lord has been promising us is going to happen in our Catholic Church, promises that there will be a new Pentecost, that we will be renewed, on fire with the Holy Spirit, that we will be healing and prophesying and giving new life to people. Watch this movie.*

### **Bishop Andrew Cozzens - Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis**

*"Watching this film will help you believe that the power of God is real and that he wants to use you to reveal his love to others. We live in a world where so many people are broken and in need of the healing power of Christ's love. This film documents how God desires to use signs and spiritual knowledge in order to reveal his love to his children. How he wants to speak to his children and heal them so that they can know they are loved by him. This is not sensationalism or emotivism, but rather an invitation to faith that is deeply theologically rooted in the Catholic Tradition and in Scripture. I pray that many people would have the faith exemplified in this film to be fearlessly open to the Holy Spirit. Watching this film can help you begin the journey to become the spirit-filled evangelizer the Our Holy Father is asking you to be."*

### **Bishop Sam Jacobs**

*I just saw the documentary and was very impressed by the way the gift of healing and the charism of evangelization were presented. It reflected my own experience. Well done. It needs to be distributed widely for view in the Church.*

### **Jeff Cavins**

*"For many Catholics today, their faith is separated from any kind of miracle or life changing encounter with Jesus Christ. Miracles of healing remain locked up within the pages of Sacred Scripture all the while the modern believer longs for more of God. In "Fearless" the viewer will come face to face with the reality that the kingdom of God moves in power from the sacred page to the predicament of our lives. If Jesus caught the attention of his contemporaries two thousand years ago by healing, is there a chance that he would do it again? Yes, for he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Open your hearts to a new move of God in your life as you watch this powerful film."*

### **Fr Dave Pivonka - TOR Evangelist and presenter for "the wild goose is loose"**

*Perfect love casts out all fear and perfect love is only experienced in the love of God that is revealed in Jesus Christ. And yet, too many Catholic are living their faith life bound by fear and this limits what God can do in and through the individual. Fearless sheds light on what the Christian life can look like for the Catholic who is freed from fear and allows the Holy Spirit to be more active in his or her life. By the sharing of personal experiences*

*Fearless chronicles what God can do in and through men and women who allow the Spirit of God to lead them. Marked by excellent theological commentary Fearless is both inspiring and instructive. Anyone who is interested in releasing the power of God in their life should make a point of watching Fearless.*

**Fr. Mike Schmitz - National speaker and evangelist**

*"God has not abandoned His Church. The Father has not abandoned His children. He has not left us orphan. He has given us His Holy Spirit. His Spirit is the Spirit of power and of love and of self-control. And the Holy Spirit makes the Father's Heart and the Father's healing present today. God wants to heal people so that we can learn to trust Him. The Father's heart aches because His children do not trust Him. Jesus proves the love of the Father. The Holy Spirit makes the love of the Father present to us today. Fearless is a powerful video that demonstrates that we can trust the Father...it demonstrates the living and active power of God that continues to be working in the Church and in the world now. God's love has not run out. God's power is accessible to all those whom the Father loves...and the Father loves us all. We need to be challenged by the Gospels in a way that moves us to approach the Lord with trust. When we approach the Lord, we give Him permission to move; we give Him access to our hearts and our lives. The mission of evangelization must be accompanied by the Presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Fearless is a great witness to the fact that Jesus continues to move today. Our faith does not rest on human wisdom, but on the Holy Spirit of power. Fearless is a testimony to this reality."*

**Sr Miriam Heidland - National Catholic Speaker and Author of Loved As I Am**

*"Fearless is an incredible adventure into the heart of what it means to be full of the love of God and live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit and revealing the Kingdom of God through signs and wonders is not for a select few-it is the normal Christian life. This is our calling! My heart was burning as I watched Fearless and I can't wait to see the impact it will have on the Church and the world!"*

**Dr Bob Schuchts - Author of Be Healed/Founder of John Paul II Healing Center**

*Fearless is an engaging documentary chronicling the vibrant faith of three men, a Catholic priest (Fr. Mathias Thelen) and two street evangelists (Patrick Reis and Aaron Richards). All three are fearless in the way they step out boldly in faith, trusting the Holy Spirit for guidance as they seek to invite people into an encounter with the living Jesus. I found this film enthralling from beginning to end. Watching it is like being dropped into the middle of the Acts of the Apostles. It causes one to ask the question: "What does it mean to be authentically Catholic?" That question is masterfully answered throughout the documentary as the narrator ( Maura Smith of BBC ) wisely measures everything the viewer sees in light of Sacred Scripture and the trustworthy teaching of the Catholic Church. This theological commentary interspersed throughout the documentary (by Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. Thelen and Dr. Ralph Martin) creates a solid grounding for everything the viewer beholds-miraculous healings, supernatural encounters, and fallen away Catholics being drawn back into a personal faith in the risen Christ. After watching this documentary, I wanted to share it with everyone I know. I highly recommend it, whether you are a faithful follower of Christ, or a casual seeker, you too will be challenged to re-examine what it means to actively believe in Jesus in the 21st century. This is the New Evangelization!*

**Dave Nodar - Director of ChristLife: Catholic Ministry for Evangelization**

*The Lord Jesus wants Catholics to evangelize! For the last fifty years our Popes have summoned the Church to pray for a new Pentecost so we might receive the same power and gifts of the Spirit with which the early Church evangelized. As someone actively involved in evangelization for forty-five years, I can attest to the reality of the power of Pentecost available to those who say yes and earnestly desire all that Jesus offers to us to be His witnesses. Fearless will challenge, stretch, and inspire you to a new awareness of how much God longs to empower every Catholic to reach those who don't know Him. May this film mobilize many to enter into the work of evangelization, which is new in ardor, methods and expressions.*

**Neal Lozano - Unbound and director of heart of the father Ministries**

[www.FearlessDocumentary.net](http://www.FearlessDocumentary.net)

*Fearless is inspiring, challenging and for many it will be life changing. It is not only a testimony of the love of God manifest through His healing power, but offers practical guidance on how to proclaim Good News with power. Fearless is a pathway to a profound expression of the New Evangelization so needed in the Church today.*

**Steve Dawson, National Director of St. Paul Street Evangelization**

*It should be no surprise that the “signs and wonders” that accompanied the preaching of the Apostles in the original evangelization of a pagan world are showing up again in the New Evangelization. Here we see three men whose conviction of the active power of Holy Spirit makes them open and fearless in bringing Him to others—through physical healings, prophecies, and the resultant boost in faith.*

**Scott Elmer-Director of Evangelization Archdiocese of Denver**

*Mind Blowing! Fearless is a gamechanger for Catholic Evangelization! Fearless opened my eyes to the good work that Catholics are already doing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The film lays out the Biblical and Ecclesial foundation for signs and wonders in evangelism and then takes you right into real situations where this powerful ministry is transforming parishes, neighborhoods, and communities across the country. If the New Evangelization follows a New Pentecost, Fearless is certainly doing its part in opening our eyes to see and fostering our hope to receive from Jesus’ fullness. I pray that the fruits of this work will overflow into and out of the hearts of Catholics throughout the world.*

**Fr. Chris Gafferty OFM-Pastor, St Joseph Catholic Church**

*"As a Franciscan Friar and a parish priest, teaching people to be open to the Holy Spirit and His holy operation is a priority in my ministry. That being said, I can't tell you how excited I am by ""Fearless!"" It's like a dream come true... or rather like the coming to pass of Pope Saint John Paul II's prophesy about the new springtime of the Church. In 1997, our Catholic bishops of the U.S. wrote that this new springtime would be ushered in by greater openness to the Holy Spirit and His charisms. Seeing Catholics evangelize using the charisms of the Holy Spirit makes me realize that the new springtime is already here, that the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is happening, and that Jesus is setting His Church on fire with the Holy Spirit and His gifts so that we can witness the love of God to the world in powerful ways. Let ""Fearless"" introduce you to the ""more"" that the Lord has for you and for others through you."*

**Deacon Ralph Poyo-New Evangelization Ministries**

*"A great work and investment of time! ""Fearless"" helps us to learn more about the roll of the Holy Spirit in our lives and encourages us to push through fear to obey the Lord's call to share Him with others. "Lord, may we all live this example of profound faith.""*

**Fr Michael Becker - Rector of St John Vianney Seminary, St Paul, MN**

*"Fearless is absolutely tremendous in presenting first hand divinely providential encounters, wherein words of knowledge and healings lead to conversion and the salvation of souls. The miracles revealed in Columbus, Ohio are extraordinary, and yet they prove that the most ordinary Christians are called to participate in God's healing ministry by praying with faith. Fr Mathias Thelen is a joyful witness who shares the conviction that the Holy Spirit is being poured out today as in a second Pentecost. This is exactly where the Catholic Church is headed at the dawn of the new millennium. Valiant saints are already being raised up to boldly proclaim the Gospel to the next generation, allowing God's power to manifest through them in signs and wonders. All are called to drink deeply of the Holy Spirit, the sweet abiding Presence, which sets our hearts on fire with Divine love! And how Jesus wishes the earth "were already ablaze!" Please share this video with all of your friends and neighbors""*

**Fr Andrew Turner - Faculty Saint Charles Borromeo seminary**

*In the beginning, the Church was bold and vibrant, and people's lives were transformed by their encounter with Jesus Christ. The disciples were compelled to witness to Christ's transformative message, and they found opportunities to strengthen and encourage one another for the ministry of service and healing. The New Evangelization seeks to stir the vigor of the Early Church, and to bring a new Pentecost for all believers. This documentary ("Fearless") provides an introduction to this transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church today. With compelling stories, the video presents the witness of present-day disciples, compelled in the mission of Jesus, who are leading others to encounter the Lord and be healed in the Holy Spirit. This testimony to God's Divine Power should be viewed by all who desire to grow in faith.*

**Fr Joe Taphorn-Moderator of the Curia, Archdiocese of Omaha, Director of JPll Newman Center, University of Nebraska**

*"Fearless powerfully teaches and demonstrates the intrinsic connection between the charisms of the Holy Spirit and the gospel mandate to evangelize. It challenges both clergy and laity to prayerfully ponder this truth and to look for ways to live it out in daily life. The "new evangelization" proclaimed by St. John Paul II and his successors will not succeed without docility to the Holy Spirit and the exercise of His gifts. I heartily recommend this film to all, especially to those involved in the mission of evangelization"*

**Fr. Peter Ryan, S.J. - Fmr Executive Director of the USSCB's Doctrine Commission**

*Can healing miracles support evangelization in the Catholic Church today? Fearless, a documentary by Maura Smith compellingly shows that the answer is a resounding Yes! The film opens with the words, "You are about to see a miracle" as a group of street evangelizers prays in a Catholic Church over Willie, a wheelchair-bound cancer patient. Willie rises from his chair and, supported by friends, walks for the first time in seven years. We are told that a week later Willie's cancer was found to be in remission for no scientific reason, and that he was soon able to walk without support, his life forever changed.*

*Willie's healing is but one of many healing miracles shown and discussed in the film, miracles that take place because ordinary Catholics ask with faith. Yet the film is not about healing per se, but about the importance of healing miracles for the mission of evangelization. Viewers will be intrigued because, as Smith points out, most Catholics assume that "we shouldn't expect to see miracles very much, and we certainly shouldn't expect for miracles to happen through the hands of ordinary Catholics." Indeed, Smith wryly observes that for her, the real miracle was not the healing itself but that it took place through Catholics praying in a Catholic Church. What are we to make of this?*

*For enlightenment on the subject, Smith turns to two eminent Catholic theologians with experience in evangelization and healing ministry. These scholars show with calm conviction just how mistaken the assumptions of many Catholics are, and how much the Church needs and encourages faith-filled, Scripture-based prayer for signs and wonders.*

*Dr. Ralph Martin, a professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit who was appointed by Pope Francis to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization and also serves as president of Renewal Ministries, provides telling commentary. Martin recalls that when John XXIII announced the Second Vatican Council, "he asked the whole Catholic Church to pray that the Lord will renew in our day his signs and wonders as by a New Pentecost," and that subsequent popes have done the same.*

*To the objection that we receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation, Professor Martin responds that the effectiveness of the gift of the Spirit in a validly conferred sacrament can, as the great Church doctor St. Thomas Aquinas teaches, be blocked by a lack of faith, a lack of repentance, and a lack of desire for what the sacrament is intended to give.*

*How can we awaken faith so that people will repent, ask for the Holy Spirit, and experience his power in their lives? Dr. Mary Healy, a Scripture professor at Sacred Heart who was appointed by Pope Francis to the prestigious Pontifical Biblical Commission, draws on Scripture to illuminate "the intrinsic relationship between healing and evangelization." Like the apostles in the upper room, she says, we must pray for the power of the*

*Holy Spirit so that we will be able to implement that part of Jesus' commission that is too often overlooked: "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons." She notes that in the early Church, as the disciples "evangelized in word, they also did healings. The Lord through them did signs and wonders, and confirmed the truth of the message they spoke."*

*Professor Healy argues that it would be a great mistake to conclude from the Church's beautiful theology of redemptive suffering—which recognizes that "God can use suffering as the chisel which makes a rough block of marble into the beautiful statue he wants it to be" and that "our suffering united with Christ can even be a means of grace to other people"—that resignation to illness is somehow a holier response than prayer for healing. She passionately insists that miracles are "meant to be a part of the Church's message of evangelization in every age."*

*The documentary includes footage of healing services led by Fr. Mathias Thelen, a priest of the Diocese of Lansing who teaches and gives spiritual direction at Sacred Heart. Those services bear powerful witness to the fact that miracles pertain to the Church's evangelizing mission today. Fr. Thelen explains: "I proclaim that God is love, that in his Son Jesus he has come to bring a restoration to humanity who had been alienated from him, that Jesus is alive, he is risen from the dead, and as I proclaim that truth, I demonstrate the truth that Jesus is present by praying for healing. Jesus shows up through the power of his spirit and heals people, thereby convincing people that the gospel is real, that Jesus is alive."*

*The film is both doctrinally sound and profoundly inspiring, and I recommend it with great enthusiasm. It convincingly explains why healing is integral to the Catholic mission of evangelization, and it communicates hope by showing us how Jesus, the Great Physician, heals and draws to himself those who approach him with open hearts."*

**Ryan Mahle, MA - Theology Teacher, Alter High School - Dayton, OH**

*"On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: 'Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.'" (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164) The mission of the catechist has been set out boldly by Pope Francis – a mission to proclaim the Gospel and, in doing so, to reveal the heart of God. With this mission in mind, FEARLESS demonstrates a God who is alive and the limitless power of the Holy Spirit available to all Christians, charging young Catholics to move from theory to reality – from principles to practice – from a faith life that is simply "part of growing up" to the fullness of life in God! This revolutionary documentary captures powerful footage of evangelization and discipleship, which are in fact the laboratories of the catechist in which God's love is not only professed to, but necessarily practiced and lived. Coupled with rich theological commentary from noteworthy teachers of the Catholic faith, FEARLESS gives credible witness to the nearness of the Kingdom in and through the Church and is sure to elevate the faith of all who watch it. I'm excited to use this film in the classroom as a resource to teach on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the life of grace available to the Church! I encourage all Catholic educators and students to watch this impressive film and to be inspired by the reality of God's love for them.*

**Craig Pohl Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Lansing**

*"Fearless is a bold and exciting documentary that exposes the reality that most Christians are not embracing God's full vision for their lives. It proposes that we need to live in radical docility to the Holy Spirit, especially in the work of evangelization! This film offers an opportunity to begin an important conversation that needs to happen in the Church."*

**Dr William Chavey - Founder of Emmaus Ministries**

*"Fearless" is a movie not intended to convert the skeptics, but to inspire the believers who are unaware that the gifts of the Spirit are still manifest today. We are all called to do bold things and the first step is to engage the will of the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you'll be called to the gift of healing. Perhaps you'll be inspired to share the gospel with more courage. After watching "Fearless," you should be fearless in embracing the call to accept and to share the gifts of the Spirit!*