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DVD List

Docu-films

A Rising Tide of Silence, directed by Peter C. Jones, 2014.

This film offers a reflective portrait on the life of Thomas Keating who, as a key teacher and author on Centering prayer, was one of the most influential voices about contemplation from the 1980s until his death in 2018, aged 95. The film interweaves historical footage, biographical documentation, interviews with friends and colleagues with extensive interviews with Fr. Keating.

Day of a Stranger, directed by Cassidy Hall, 2021.

This is an intimate portrait of the final years of the renowned Trappist monk, Thomas Merton. Combining meditative images of his hermitage at Gethsemani Abbey and rare audio recordings he made as a hermit, the film pieces together a first-person narrative of one of the twentieth century's most brilliant minds. Focusing on the last few years of Merton's life, the film explores the important work that emerged from his tiny cabin nestled deep in the woods before his untimely death in 1968.

Into Great Silence, directed by Philip Gröning, 2006.

This is the first film about life inside the Grande Chartreuse, mother house of the Carthusian Order in the French Alps. It is a three hour, almost silent meditation on monastic life with no music except the chants in the monastery, and virtually no spoken word. It depicts the changing of time, seasons, and the daily cycle of monastic life. The film is about awareness, absolute presence, and the life of men who devoted themselves to God in contemplation.

No Greater Love, directed by Michael Whyte, 2009.

After ten years of correspondence, the director was given unprecedented access to the monastery of the Most Holy Trinity, in London's Notting Hill, home to the Discalced Order of Carmelite Nuns. The docu-film gives a unique insight into this enclosed order which lives apart from the materialism of the modern worlds. Centred in Holy Week, it interweaves a year in the life of the monastery with the daily rhythms of Divine Office and work. Centred in Holy Week, it follows a year in which a novice is professed and one of the senior nuns dies. Although mainly observational, several interviews offer insights into the life, faith, moments of doubt and belief in the power of prayer in the heart of the community.

The Way, directed by Emilio Estevez, 2011.

Tom, an American doctor, leaves his Californian life behind and travels to France to collect the remains of his adult son, killed in the Pyrenees while walking The Camino de Santiago, also known as 'The Way of Saint James'. Driven by his sadness and desire to understand his lost son, Tom decides to embark on the 800km historical pilgrimage armed only with his son's backpack and guidebook. He meets other pilgrims from around the world, all broken and looking for meaning in their lives.

TV Series

The Big Silence, directed by Barney Snow and Clare Bradbury, first transmitted 2010.

In these engrossing episodes Father Christopher Jaminson, Abbot of Worth Abbey, prepares five volunteers for immersion in a week of complete silence at St Bueno's Ignatian Spirituality Centre in North Wales. After the retreat is over, will they return to their old way of life or have learned valuable lessons which profoundly change their lives going forward?

The Convent, *The Monastery*, and *The Monastery Revisited* were all BBC TV series first transmitted between 2005 and 2010. They are not currently released on DVD.