

Itinerary 4

Rafael Matesanz Martín



<http://www.arturoh.com/pueblosdesegovia/fotos/pradena/6302.jpg>

1. Let's get started!

“Freedom, Sancho, is one of the most precious gifts that heaven has bestowed upon men; no treasures that the earth holds buried or the sea conceals can compare with it; for freedom, as for honour, life may and should be ventured”.

Miguel de Cervantes

Don Quixote

“The rose is without a ‘wherefor’ – she blooms because she blooms. It pays no attention to itself, nor does it ask whether anyone sees it”

Angelus Silesius

German Mystical Writings

*Let nothing trouble you,
let nothing frighten you,
everything passes away,
but God does not,
through patience
you will obtain everything.
Whoever has God
is lacking nothing.
Having God is enough!*

*Santa Teresa de Jesús
Let Nothing Trouble You*

Didactic Justification:

- Educational level: 4th year of Secondary Education
- Subject: Spanish Language and Literature
- Objectives:
 - a. Getting to know the work of the local poet Rafael Matesanz.
 - b. Working such contents as adjectives and literary figures.
 - c. Interviewing different people from Prádena.
 - d. Developing linguistic competence and speech skills.
 - e. Developing Digital Competence through internet searches and investigation.

2. What do you know about...?

Rafael Matesanz Martín: Spanish priest and poet, born in Prádena (Segovia) in 1933. He graduated in Theology in the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, and he taught Religion at Andrés Laguna High School, in Segovia. In 1997 he was awarded the 27th Prize for Mystic Poetry "Fernando Rielo", for his book of poems "Letters to Heaven" (Cartas al Cielo). He was also awarded other prizes such as "Alforja para la Paz Prize" and the National Sonnet Contest.

His full poetic work includes the following books: This Light (Esta luz), In The House Of God (En el Hogar de Dios), High Silence (Alto silencio), A Letter in verse to St. John of the Cross (Carta en Verso a Juan de la Cruz) and Couplets at Jorge Manrique's Death (Coplas a la Muerte de Jorge Manrique).

Source:

<http://www.mcnbiografias.com/appbio/do/show?key=matesanz-rafael>

Rafael Matesanz wins the 15th Prize for Mystic Poetry Fernando Rielo

LOLAGALÁN Rome 12th DEC 1997

The poem "Letters to Heaven" (*Cartas al Cielo*), described by the jury as a sincere "confession from the soul", won yesterday's international mystic poetry prize, and was composed by the priest Rafael Matesanz Martín (Segovia, 1933). This prize, which exudes exoticism in times dominated by consumerism, was inaugurated in 1981 and is worth 800000 pesetas. Fernando Rielo, aged 74, president of the institution to which he gives his name, praised the work of Matesanz – a theologian and teacher at Andrés Laguna High School in Segovia - he claimed the role of mystic poetry which according to him holds the "aim to restore the broken unitive dialogue of a Humanity, which is more alienated than atheist or agnostic. If the Human Being does not converse with God, he will not be able to converse with his neighbour". Mystic poetry is then the restorer of the "Humanity's weakened Word". Fernando Rielo, member of the Northamerican Academy of Spanish Language and Cultural Centre of Hispanic Studies, poet and thinker, has founded several institutions devoted to the promotion of culture, art and thinking. Matesanz is the author of a wide body of work in both prose and verse, which features highlights, such as A Letter in Verse to St. John of the Cross (*Carta en verso a Juan de la Cruz*), Couplets at Jorge Manrique's Death (*Coplas a la muerte de Jorge Manrique*), This Light (*Esta luz*) or High silence (*Alto Silencio*).

Source:

http://elpais.com/diario/1997/12/12/cultura/881881202_850215.html

3. Let's Do It!



Activity 1.

- a) Read these two poems and analyse their metre as well as their rhyme
- b) Vocabulary and expressions to work on:
 - Pétalo (petal)
 - Encarnada (incarnated)
 - Morada (purple)
 - Libar (sip)
 - Trascendente (trascendent)
- c) Classify the adjectives in both poems.
- d) Write down the abstract nouns you find in both poems
- e) Looks for figures of speech and write them down

Virgen Rosa

En tu carne de Virgen silenciosa
puso Dios el calor de su mirada.
Quedó la primavera consumada
y tu luz inocente se hizo rosa.

Rosa de Dios abierta y generosa
para dar tu hermosura inmaculada
Cautívaste al Amor. Y en tu morada
quedó encarnada su Palabra hermosa.

Tus pétalos temblaban de alegría
y tu savia de rosa se decía:
“¿Cómo yo, cómo yo, para ser luna?”

Pero Dios, en tu carne prisionero,
dijo gozosamente: “Porque quiero
libar tu rosa y habitar tu cuna”



<http://bligoo.com/media/users/0/43070/images/public/24472/1265269998788-rosa4gh.jpg?v=1265269998968>



Y, desde aquel instante, se hizo vuelo
la mansa transparencia de la brisa.

Quedó aroma de rosa en la sonrisa
y aroma de Dios mismo y de su cielo.

Quedó la Plenitud besando el suelo
quedó la luz purísima y precisa.

Quedaste tú, ¡oh Virgen poetisa!,
escribiendo poemas de consuelo.

Todo quedo tan rosa y tan abierta,
que nadie ignora dónde está la puerta
para entrar en la vida trascendente

Y todo porque un día se hizo estrella
tu corazón de rosa, pura y bella
dando a luz a la luz perpetuamente.

Rafael Matesanz Martín

From the book: *In the House of God* (En el Hogar de Dios). - Segovia, 1993
Editorial El Paísaje - Aranguren (Vizcaya)



Activity 2.

- a) Read the poem and analyse its metre
- b) Why is it a mystic text?
- c) Name some Spanish mystic poets.
- d) Surf the web and search for information about them

https://insulabaranaria.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/virgen_maria_encinta.jpg

Silencio de María en cínta

Qué silencio tallaba tu sonrisa,
Virgen de la humildad y la ternura?
Qué sencillez vestía tu hermosura
de luz materna, cálida y precisa?

Qué gracia en vuelo como mansa brisa
sostenía la paz de tu figura?
Qué verso de tu sangre, clara y pura,
ímprimía tu voz de poetisa?

Hablabas sin hablar, Virgen María:
sólo con ser vasija confidente
donde Dios anidaba complacido.

Tu corazón de Madre florecía
la Palabra de Dios, calladamente:
sólo al ritmo del beso concluido.





Activity 3.

Go around Prádena and look for Rafael Matesanz's home.
Take some pictures and prepare a PPT, Prezi or Slideshare presentation.



<http://image.slidesharecdn.com/presentaci1-141030034230-conversion-gate01/95/prdena-1-638.jpg?cb=1414640602>





Rosalía Fartos

Activity 4

Interview your neighbours!



<http://us.123rf.com/450wm/sababa66/sababa661506/sababa66150600010/41758040-periodista-de-radio-con-una-grabadora-y-microfono-entrevidas.jpg>

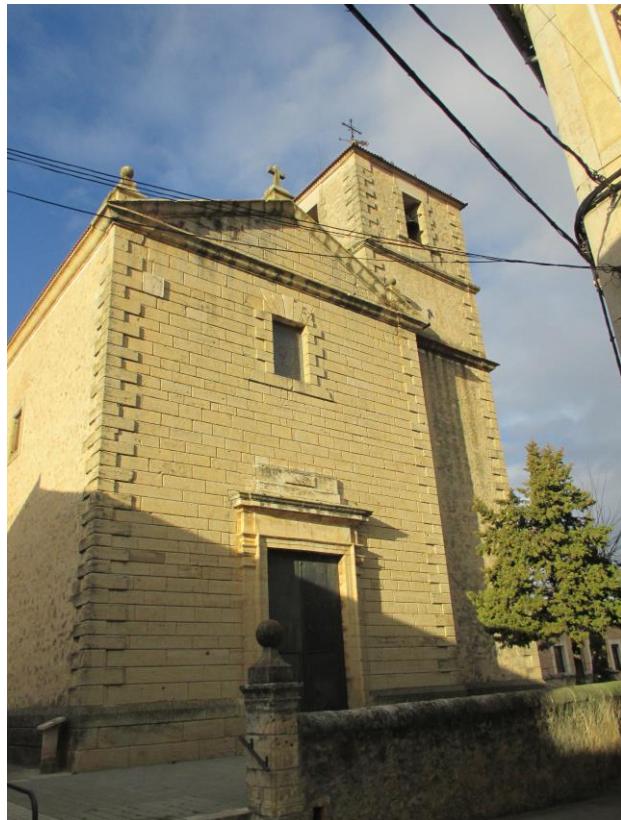
Interview people from Prádena and ask about the priest and poet Rafael Matesanz Martín.

- In groups, write down 5 questions about this writer.

4. Improve your knowledge

Webography

- <http://www.mcnbiografias.com/app-bio/do/show?key=matesanz-rafael>
- <http://www.tiemppodepoesia.com/tiempo/navidad/natividad16/natividad16.html>
- http://elpais.com/diario/1997/12/12/cultura/881881202_850215.html
- <http://www.mariología.org/poemas/poesiarafaelmatesanzmartín05.htm>
- <http://hemeroteca.abc.es/nav/Navigate.exe/hemeroteca/madrid/abc/1997/12/12/061.html>



Rosalía Fartos