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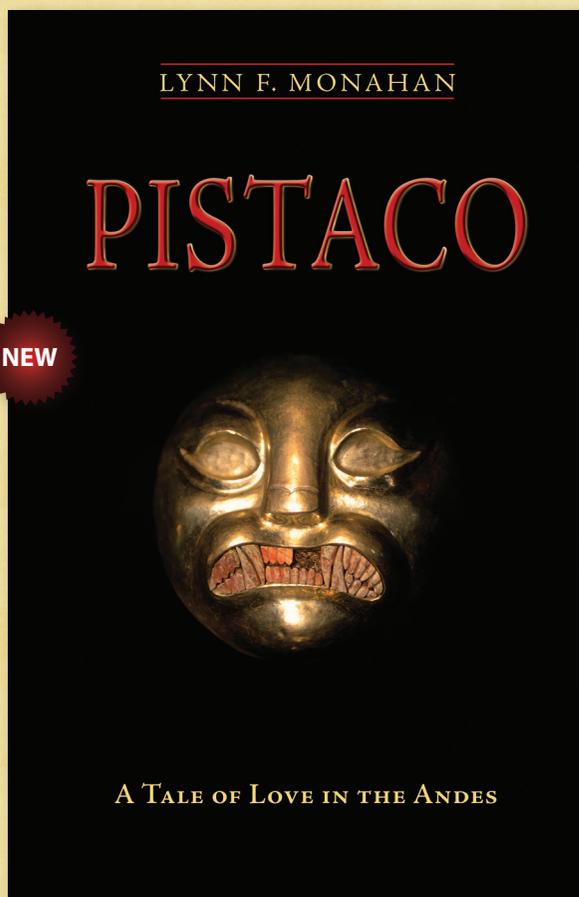
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—Judith Valente, author, Atchison Blue, The Art of Pausing

A gunshot echoed across the hillside. Steven startled in the darkness where he crouched, his nose filled with the odor of eucalyptus, damp llama wool, and sweat. Another shot rang out. The priest squinted out of the shady lean-to into bleaching sunshine that radiated off the sandy path.

"From the village," Cesar, the campesino beside him, said. Three more shots spaced a few seconds apart reverberated through the otherwise still mountain air.

Steven dropped his forehead to his folded hands. No doubt the terrorists had killed their prisoners. He asked God's mercy on their souls, whoever they were, and for whatever they had done or failed to do in this life. Then he prayed for the safety of the rest of the villagers and for a softening of the hearts of the killers.

"Don't worry, Padre, they won't come here," Cesar said. The strain in his voice contradicted the comfort he tried to offer. "I'll go to where I can see down the hill. I'll be right back."

Steven pondered the sequence of shots. One per person, he thought, and prayed he was wrong. Who else? Maybe the first shots were only warnings, a call to attention. Speculating was futile. He would know soon enough—if he wasn't found and killed himself....

Quick Reference

Children	13-14
Church Issues	14-15, 19-20
Community Organizing	28-29
Fiction, Essays	2-7, 9
Gifts	25, 27
The Message	25
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Spirituality.....	10-11, 16-17, 20-24

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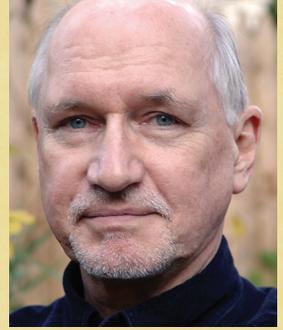
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RAVE REVIEWS OF THE NEW NOVEL *PISTACO*

In *Publishers Weekly* and *Today's American Catholic*

Steven McMahon, a young American struggling to reconcile his priestly vocation with his very human desire for love and intimacy, flees to Peru on mission, seeking the serenity he cannot find at home. In a tiny village in the Andes Mountains he meets a young school teacher chased by demons of her own. They soon find themselves trapped between the brutal Shining Path guerrillas, who threaten mayhem across the mountain countryside, and a harsh military counter-insurgency trying to quash the rebellion. Caught between repression from authorities and ungodly acts of terror by the rebels, and haunted by the legend of el pistaco, a mythical fiend believed by locals to feed on the unwary, they discover the meaning—and the price—of love.



LYNN F. MONAHAN has traveled widely, especially in Latin America, and lived in Peru during much of the 1990s, an experience that inspired *Pistaco*. Currently a US-based journalist, Monahan has written award-winning stories from four continents about people who live on the margins of “civilization.” A Connecticut native, he graduated from Syracuse University and holds a master’s degree in writing from Manhattanville College. He and his wife have two daughters and live in Westchester County, New York.



304 pages, hardcover, \$24.95, 978-0-87946-981-8, #2021

304 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-0-87946-982-5, #2022

AS REVIEWED IN



*“Unlike many novels published for the Catholic trade, *Pistaco* is aimed at the broad general literary market for suspense stories set in exotic locations,” in this case 1980s Peru during the time of the Shining Path guerrilla uprising. An American priest and a Peruvian school teacher meet and fall in love amid the violent struggle between the army and the rebels; they are shadowed by the threat of el pistaco, a mythical fiend the villagers believe feeds on people. Says Greg Pierce, Publisher, “The story illuminates tensions between Catholicism and indigenous religion, power and justice, and celibacy and intimacy.”*

AS REVIEWED IN



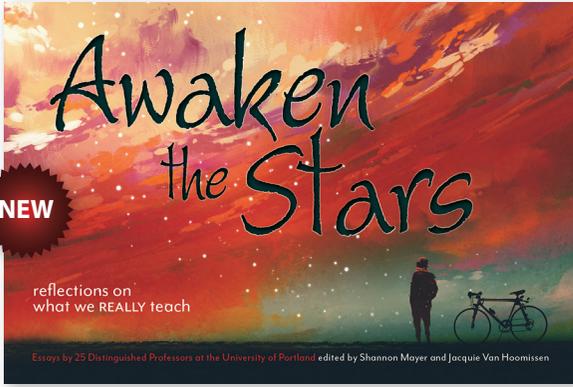
BY FRAN
SALONE-PELLETIER

This is far more than a novel of love and terror. It exceeds the poignancy of a priest's struggle with mandatory celibacy and a young woman's fear of being unacceptable because of her physical disability. This is a tale of humanity's descent into a hell of its own construction as well as a heaven which seems always slightly out of reach. It is a parable of care and concern commingling with fear, frustration, and futility. It is the interweaving of religion with religiosity and the interplay of those who desire to help and those who are leery of the cost connected with the assistance. The reader is offered an opportunity to enter life with all its terrifying reality...

Simply written with profound poignancy, it is read with tearful comprehension and heartfelt hope that Gethsemane's garden agony lived now is indeed prelude to resurrection—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The pistaco of devilish imperfection can also open portals of prayerful living and profound loving. Hand-in-hand, love and terror walk us into life newly understood. In the end, love abides. There is power in that kind of passionate living.

Read, weep, and reap the reward offered for the taking.



DEDICATION

With gratitude to Brian Doyle
Editor of *Portland* magazine
University of Portland

You taught us all how to
Awaken the Stars.

(See page 5.)

AWAKEN THE STARS

Reflections on What We Really Teach

Shannon Mayer and Jacquie Van Hooissen, Editors

Two professors asked fellow faculty members at the University of Portland, a Holy Cross institution in the Pacific Northwest, what it is they really teach. The answer is revealed in the insights and anecdotes of this remarkable collection of essays. Here twenty-five distinguished professors reveal the philosophy that drives their work in a wide variety of academic disciplines: helping students recognize and develop their own gifts and discover the deepest longing of their lives.

EXCERPT FROM *AWAKEN THE STARS*

What do I *really* teach when I teach Philosophy? For one, I remind my students—and myself—that we live in a universe that was not made by human hands. Rather, *we* are made by *it*. Quite literally, we are made of stardust. Even more: through philosophy’s conversations with mathematics, biology, physics, and chemistry, we are able to put the universe into our heads. Through imagination, the universe comes to think about itself. And when we think about ourselves thinking about ourselves, such conscious self-reflection typically means we have more questions than we have answers.

Essays will surprise and inspire students and parents alike, and will encourage educators to be attentive and awake in fresh ways as they engage their students. Selections include:

- “Touched by the Infinite,” *Rev. Charles McCoy, CSC*
- “Faith, Hope, and Love: A Trinity of Uncertainty,” *Steven G. Mayer*
- “An Invitation to Star-Gazing,” *Michael Andrews*
- “Spelunking with a Dim Flashlight,” *Rev. Patrick Hannon, CSC*
- “The Many Facets of Humanness,” *Anissa Rogers*
- “Everything Always Has a Past,” *Christin Hancock*
- “The Flourishing of Every Soul,” *Karen E. Eifler*
- “Halfway between the Head and the Heart,” *Nicole Leupp Hanig*
- “The Urgency of Slowness,” *Lars Larson*
- “Engineering Creativity,” *Heather Dillon*

136 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-587-2, #1154

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BRIAN DOYLE, 1956-2017

Remembering and celebrating one of America's finest storytellers



My friend Brian Doyle died in May of 2017 after a short but determined fight with brain cancer. He was for many years the editor of Portland magazine, the award-winning publication of the University of Portland, an institution founded and staffed by priests of the Holy Cross religious order of men.

But Brian was not a priest. He was a proud Catholic layperson who gloried in his vocation as a husband and father of three, a son and brother, a friend of multitudes, an editor and writer, a coach and mentor to young people. And that is what he wrote about, mostly: the layperson's life in the world of work, family, and community. If I can ever convince you to give an author a try, it would be Brian Doyle. ACTA Publications is blessed to be the publisher of the four books below. You can take your pick, because if you read one of them you'll be back for the others.—Greg Pierce, Publisher, ACTA Publications

SO VERY MUCH THE BEST OF US

Songs of Praise in Prose

Brian Doyle explores the promise of Catholicism in America in eighty stories, including: Confirmation Day, Best Napper of the Year, How to Love Your Neighbor Who is a Roaring Idiot or Even Worse, Visitation Day, A Song for Nurses, How to Hit Your Dad, Swallowing an Otter, Little Kids in Mass, The Rude Burl of Our Masks, Like the Dew that Blesses the Grass, The Manner of His Murder, Librarianious, and The Most Beautiful Boat There Ever Was.

CPA Book Awards, 2016, Honorable Mention, Family Life

220 pages, paperback, \$18.95, 978-0-87946-549-0, #1111

READING IN BED

Brief Headlong Essays about Books and Writers and Reading and Readers

Brian Doyle will make you laugh and snarl and ponder the endless pleasures of books and their creators. *Reading in Bed* is a book to enjoy, enlighten, and inspire.

Midwest Review of Books, Book of the Month, June 2016

215 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-09961362-0-4, #1137

GRACE NOTES

In this eclectic and compelling collection, Doyle writes about his discovery of the incarnated Spirit of God every time he turns around, often in the most unlikely of people, places, and things.

CPA Book Awards, 2012, Third Place, Family Life

144 pages, paperback, \$15.95, 978-0-87946-434-9, #1047

GRACE NOTES AUDIOBOOK

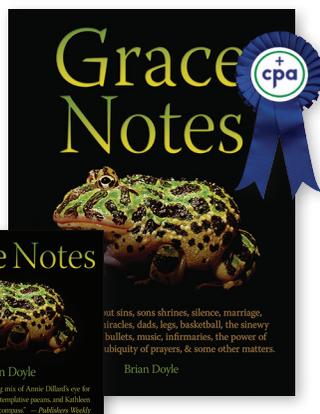
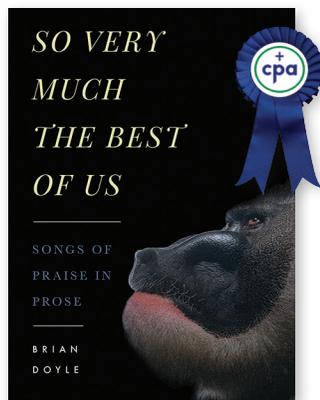
Chicago actor Frank Gaughan reads 15 of these stories, which capture the spiritual essence of everyday life from the perspective of a committed Catholic who loves his faith, his family, his community, and his church, even with all their warts and failings.

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CAT'S FOOT

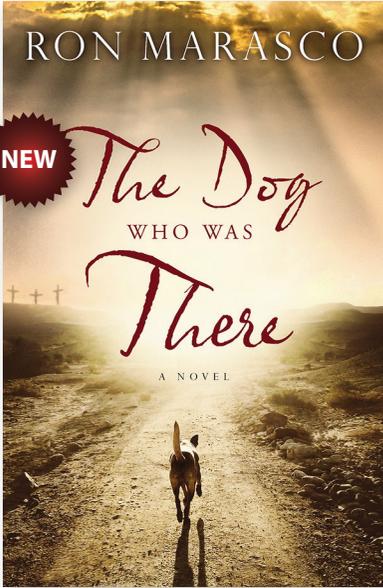
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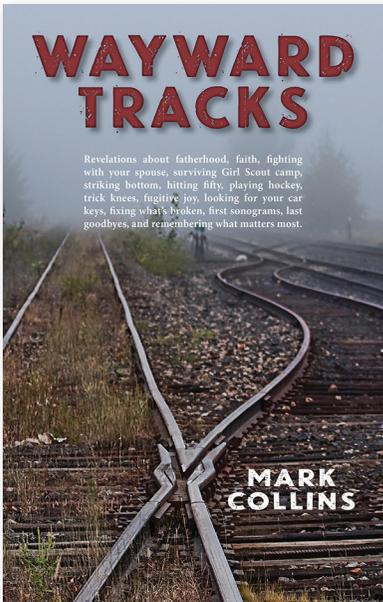
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Barley's story begins in the home of a compassionate woodcarver and his wife who find Barley as an abandoned, nearly-drowned pup. Tales of a special teacher from Galilee are reaching their tiny village, but when life suddenly changes again for Barley, he carries the lessons of forgiveness and love out of the wood carver's home and through the dangerous roads of Roman-occupied Judea.

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In every story he tells, Mark Collins helps us discover the truly miraculous in the smallest moments of our daily lives and shines a bright cone of light on the things we usually see only out of the corner of our eye.

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Donald Cozzens

Mark Anderlee, once a victim of sexual abuse, now a battle-hardened army sniper and veteran of the war on terror, takes a vow one day in the searing desert of northern Iraq to wreak vengeance on his childhood tormentor. Half a world away, Archbishop Wilfred Gunnison prepares for a jubilee celebration of his priesthood—oblivious to the juggernaut creeping his way.

When Gunnison receives a mysterious and potentially lethal threat, he calls on Bishop Bryn Martin, his former Master of Ceremonies—the man whose job it has always been to maintain appearances—to protect him and to keep a quickly unraveling situation from exploding beyond repair.

A secret society with roots deep in the Vatican power structure is roused to action when an American leader of the cabal makes a panicked trip to Rome. That Brotherhood’s covert leader, known only as M, dispatches forces of his own to do whatever must be done to keep his operation functioning in obscurity and darkness. Unexpected forces, threats seen and unseen, the characters’ own hubris and humility all drive this story of sin and silence, intrigue, violence, and retribution to its not-so-inevitable conclusion.

In his first novel, critically-acclaimed author Donald Cozzens takes us behind the scenes of the Roman Catholic Church for an unflinching look at clergy sexual abuse and its very personal consequences. Cozzens weaves an intricate story of scholars and trained killers, bishops and priests, church ladies and clandestine operatives struggling—each in his or her own way—to protect the institution they venerate or to blow the lid off the oldest boys’ club in the world...or both.

Catholic Press Association Books Awards, 2015, First Place, Religious Fiction

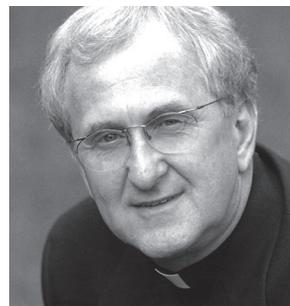
Foreword Review’s 2015 INDIEFAB Awards, Gold Medal, Adult Religious Fiction



288 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-0-87946-993-1, #2007

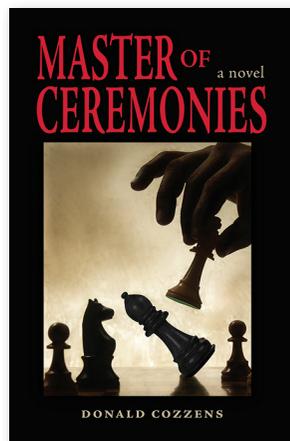
288 pages, hardcover, \$24.95, 978-0-87946-992-4, #2008

DONALD B. COZZENS is writer in residence at John Carroll University. He is a Catholic priest who has served as vicar for clergy and rector of a seminary among other assignments. Cozzens has been described as “a frank and insightful voice of reason” for his many books and international lectures, where he argues persuasively that transparency and candor, not secrecy and silence, are the first steps toward a more humble, healthy, and credible Church.



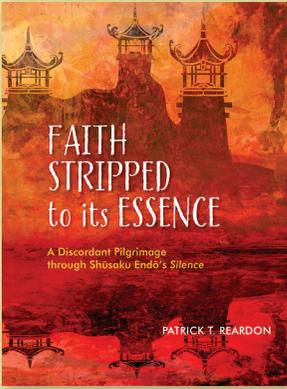
“A very believable, very scary story.” Catholic Press Association

“The book manages to expose Cozzens’ deep love for a flawed church and its priesthood as well as his competence as a psychologist and spiritual director... Carve out a couple of days to read this book. It is hard to put down.” ★★★★★amazon review



LITERARY TAKES ON FAITH

Novels that strip belief to its essence



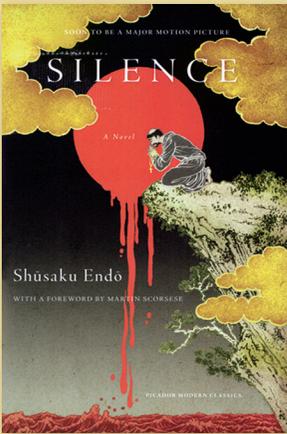
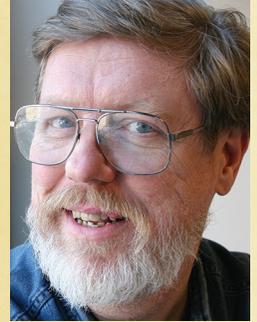
FAITH STRIPPED TO ITS ESSENCE A Discordant Pilgrimage through Shusaku Endo's Silence

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114 pages, paperback, \$12.95, 978-0-87946-581-0, #1139

PATRICK T. REARDON is a Chicagoan, born and bred. He has been writing about the city, its region, its planning issues and literary scene for more than forty years. For much of that time, he was a reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*. He has also written extensively about his Catholic faith in articles and essays in a variety of newspapers and magazines. His books include *Edith Wharton, Illuminated by The Message* (see page 11).



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In the seventeenth century, two Portuguese Jesuit priests travel to Japan, a country hostile to their religion, where feudal lords force the faithful to publicly renounce their beliefs. Eventually captured and forced to watch their Japanese Christian brothers lay down their lives for their faith, the priests bear witness to unimaginable cruelties that test their own beliefs. Shusaku Endo is one of the most celebrated and well-known Japanese fiction writers of the twentieth century, and *Silence* is widely considered to be his great masterpiece.

214 pages, paperback, \$16.00, 978-1-250-08224-4, #7185

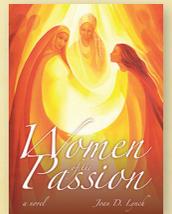
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John Shea

Drawings by Mark and Franklin McMahon

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JOHN SHEA is a theologian, author, and storyteller who has lectured nationally and internationally on storytelling in world religions, faith-based health care, contemporary spirituality, and the spirituality at work movement.



“Shea's common sense, humor, and masterful storytelling abilities combine to make his work a joy.” —Bookviews

STORIES OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT DVD

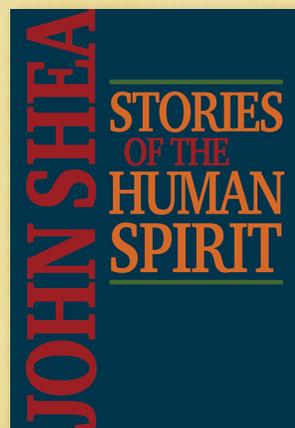
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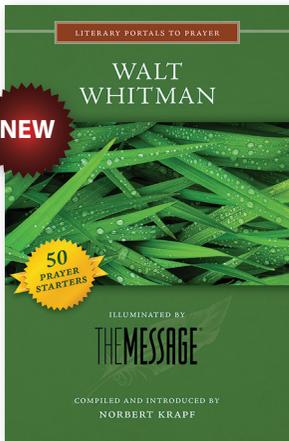


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124 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-598-8, #1162



NORBERT KRAPF, former Indiana Poet Laureate, was born and grew up in a small German-American town in southern Indiana. He is the author of twenty-six books, including the ground-breaking *Shrinking the Monster: Healing the Wounds of Our Abuse* and *Catholic Boy Blues* (see page 15), and has taught the work of Whitman in classes at Long Island University and at a seminar at University of Freiburg, Germany.

“I recommend this series as a great resource for those seeking to enhance their prayer life—just start with your favorite author.” John Molyneux, editor-in-chief, U.S. Catholic



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Compiled & introduced by Rachel Hart Winter

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120 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-625-1, #1161

RACHEL HART WINTER has always enjoyed using literature, poetry, and music as creative entry points to prayer and meditation. She is director of St. Catherine of Siena Center and adjunct professor of biomedical and healthcare ethics at Dominican University, Lake Forest, Illinois. Her published works include *Healing the Earth*, which she co-authored through the International Jesuit Ecology Project. She is married to Patrick Winter and has three children.



Learn more about *Literary Portals to Prayer* and read samples:
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LITERARY PORTALS TO PRAYER

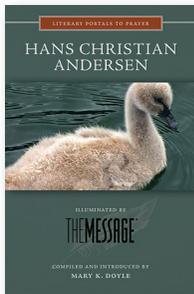
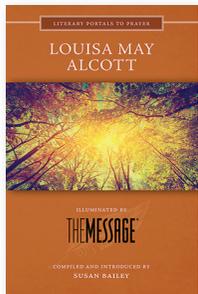
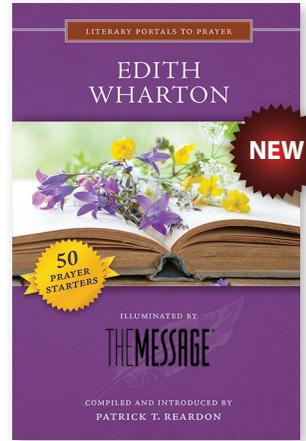
Classic Literature Illuminated by THE MESSAGE

EDITH WHARTON

Compiled & introduced by Patrick T. Reardon

In his introduction, Patrick Reardon contends that the greatness of Wharton's art has long been overlooked. "Over the past century, she has been dismissed as a woman novelist and as someone who specialized in the novel of manners.... As a storyteller, she is subtle and nuanced.... Her subject isn't so much the world as our perceptions of the world and our search to find our place in that world. And at the heart of all of her works is the question: What does it all mean?" This volume includes excerpts from Wharton's stories, poetry, non-fiction, and novels, including *The Age of Innocence*, *Ethan Frome*, and *The House of Mirth*.

120 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-578-0, #1143



LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

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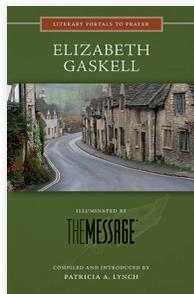
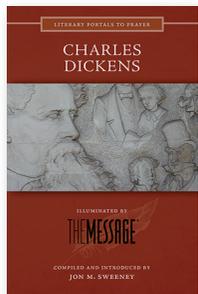
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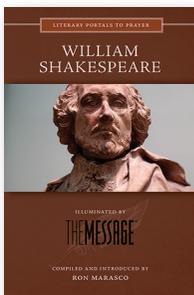
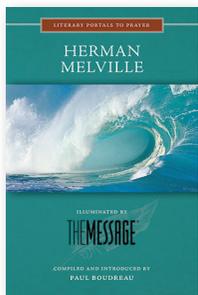
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Engaging stories, enchanting illustrations



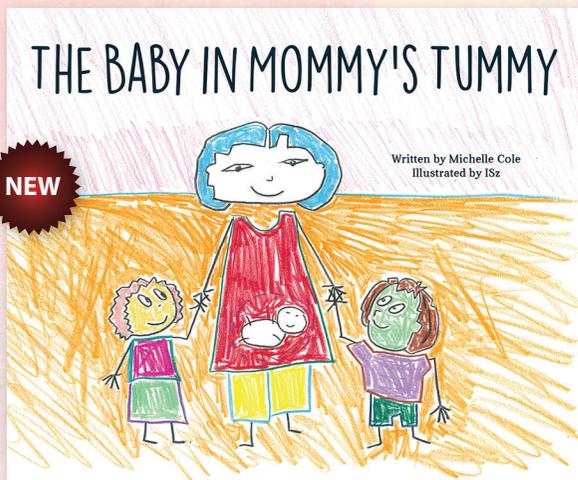
THE CURIOUS FOX

Ross McDonagh

Illustrated by Conor M. O'Brien

In this exquisitely illustrated story, told in rhyming couplets, a curious little fox embarks on an extraordinary journey to discover his own unique attribute. Following touching encounters with a colorful peacock, a speedy hare, and a stunning tiger—among an unforgettable host of wild creatures—our hero learns an invaluable life lesson, as well as making some exciting new friends.

32 pages, paperback, \$14.95,
978-1-84730-682-1, #7225



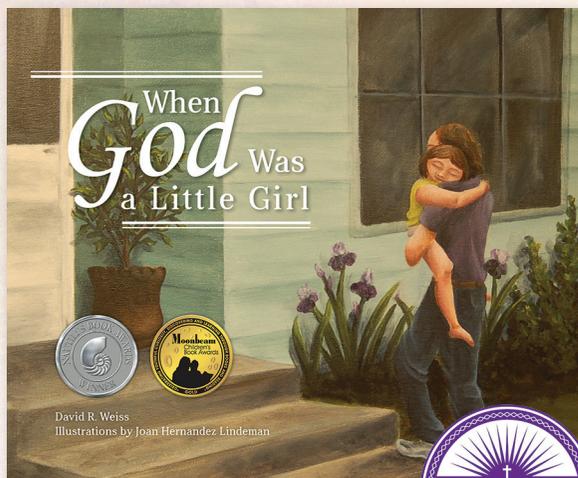
THE BABY IN MOMMY'S TUMMY

Michelle Cole

Illustrated by ISz

This whimsically illustrated book is designed to help older siblings learn about an unborn baby's growth, bond with their new sibling before the birth, and see God's creating hand in the process of gestation.

32 pages, hardcover, \$16.95,
978-0-87946-591-9, #1156



WHEN GOD WAS A LITTLE GIRL

David Weiss

Illustrated by Joan

Hernandez Lindeman

When this bestselling book was chosen for an Illumination Book Awards Enduring Light Gold Medal in 2017, it was called “a beautiful declaration of love and faith,” a book that will “change the way future generations see themselves, their God, and their world,” and “a joyous invitation to all children to see in their own creative energy and unique identity the very image of God.”

- Catholic Press Association 2016, First Place, Children's Books
- Mom's Choice Award 2016
- Silver Nautilus Book Award
- Gold Moonbeam Children's Book Award

32 pages, hardcover, \$19.95,
978-0-87946-558-2, #7180

The Jenkins Group, sponsor of the Illumination Awards, believes “books can change the world—especially books about faith, love and spiritual joy.” The Illumination Awards “are intended to celebrate and recognize the exemplary books produced by the ever-growing Christian branch of publishing and bookselling.”



PAGE THE POET

Poetry to Inspire Your Own Poetry

Ron Marasco

Illustrated by ISz

The author wrote this unique book to show what poets do...and to get young people started writing their own poetry; and the artist drew some Scribbles™ on each page to illustrate the poems. We laid out the book so it goes two ways. Side one presents Ron Marasco's poetry about poems and poets, including Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, Maya Angelou, and Bob Dylan. Side 2 (the flip side), becomes a new book, where the owner (young people or anyone who receives this as a gift) can write his or her own poems. The user can add to the Scribbles™ or color them or even invite an artist friend to help illustrate the poems. When done, the book can become a keepsake or gift to someone who will treasure it.

102 pages, spiral-bound paperback,
\$14.95, 978-0-87946-651-0, #1164

EXCERPTS

When poets capture moments,
Creation takes a bow,
And taps her toe, in time, to show
The world she made's a "Wow!"

For Life loves certain poems so much
It lets their spirit last,
And helps great poets find their way
To our day, from the past.

The morning dawned, all bright, all brisk.
All Washington was there
To stare as Maya took the stage,
A grey streak in her hair.

Perhaps, she thought of Lincoln—
His monument's nearby,
And how, if statues listen,
Tears might glisten in his eye.

WE THE (LITTLE) PEOPLE

Artwork by ISz

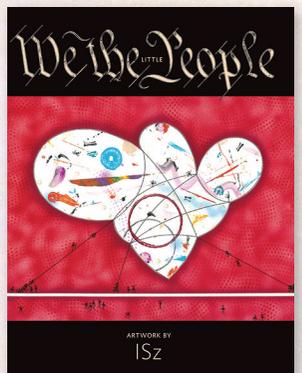
This collection of intriguing black and white images was born of the artist's experience of oneness—the timeless connection of all things—and his effort to fill the void caused by the emptiness in the human spirit. Viewers who engage with these images may begin to see the endless possibilities of who we are and what we can become: one family in a vast universe.

50 single-sided, 8.5" x 11" images, \$19.95,
978-0-87946-998-6, #2002



RONALD MARASCO is a working actor and author. See page 6 for his new novel, *The Dog Who Was There*.

ISz is a Chicago-based, ultra-contemporary artist. He describes his work as spiritual realism, or ISzism.



CHURCH ISSUES

New resources for young adults and church “leavers”



NEW



Patricia
Wittberg, SC

PATRICIA WITTBERG, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a research associate with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. After receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology, she taught at Indiana University and Fordham University. She has authored or co-authored many books, including *Catholic Cultures* and *New Generations of Catholic Sisters*.

NOT YOUR GRANDPARENTS' CHURCH On Recapturing Your Spiritual Heritage

Patricia Wittberg, SC

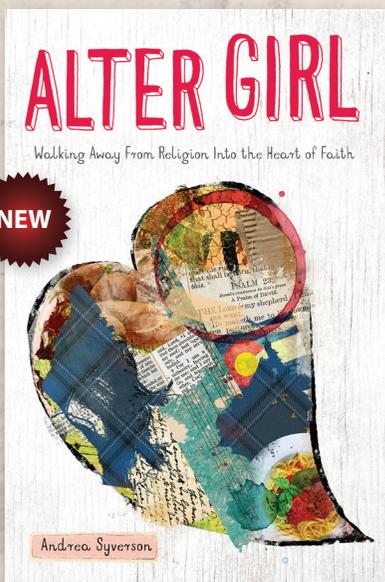
This concise, direct book is aimed at young adults—cradle Catholics who have left the church. Patricia Wittberg, a Sister of Charity, makes no attempt to persuade readers to swallow seemingly irrelevant teachings or to engage in rituals they may find boring or unintelligible. “Young adults in the twenty-first century have their own needs, desires, and questions,” she writes. “Catholic spirituality is wide and varied; there is something in it for everyone.”

Wittberg focuses on the following aspects of young adult life.

- The problem of having too many choices
- The pursuit of authenticity
- The noise of social media
- The wise use of time
- Goals and expectations
- The accumulation of “stuff” and consumer culture
- The disparity between rich and poor
- The polarization in our country and the world

This book invites young adults to sample some of the spiritual treasures and wisdom of Catholicism as they search for their own answers. “Yes, it is no longer your grandparents’ (or even your parents’) Catholic Church,” Wittberg writes, “but it can be yours, to make of it what you will.”

96 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-599-5, #1163



NEW

ALTER GIRL

**Walking Away from Religion
into the Heart of Faith**

Andrea Syverson

Join one woman on a spiritual journey in, around, and through the church on her way to a deeper connection to Jesus. Frequently whimsical, often profound, always honest, Andrea Syverson shares her spiritual journey—one that feels familiar to anyone seeking Jesus. It’s a sometimes jumbled jaunt from religion to relationship, from going to church to being the church.

Whether you love the church, are done with it, or are simply seeking a more authentic relationship with Jesus—Andrea’s story will speak to your heart.

248 pages, paperback, \$14.99, 978-1-4707-4452-6, #7219

ANDREA SYVERSON grew up a happily devout Catholic. After decades of plaid uniforms and even earning an MBA from a Catholic university, her life took an unexpected turn when she fell in love with a Protestant. She and her husband, Dean, have been partners in marriage, business, and faith for more than twenty years.

CHILDHOOD ABUSE

New approaches to healing

SHRINKING THE MONSTER

Healing the Wounds of Our Abuse

Norbert Krapf

With a poet's eye for imagery and commitment to telling the truth no matter what the personal cost, Norbert Krapf does in this artful memoir what few other survivors of clergy sexual abuse have been or would be able to do: walk outsiders through the evils of his own abuse as a boy and his ongoing efforts to recover from the consequences of that abuse throughout his adult life.

The author documents in great detail why and how he finally (after fifty years of refusing to do so), went public with what had been done to him as a young boy in the 1950s by the pastor of his family's Catholic parish in Jasper, Indiana, a man who was a supposed friend of his parents. Each step in Krapf's ongoing recovery is documented in careful prose, with frequent references to his book of poetry on the abuse, *Catholic Boy Blues*, which he published in 2014 at age 70.

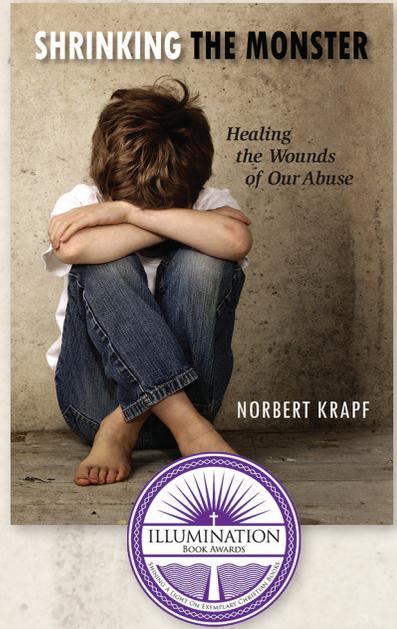
Krapf's experience may break some stereotypes and preconceived notions. In the process of healing, he receives support and understanding from his wife and friends, a parish priest, a woman religious spiritual director, and several bishops, even as he faces continued resistance to his story from others.

For those who have read *Catholic Boy Blues*, this new book will be a revelation on how poetry is created and presented by an accomplished poet. And those who start with *Shrinking the Monster* will be eager to read *Catholic Boy Blues* to see the relationship between the author's life and his art.

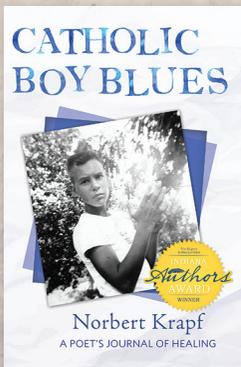
2017 Illumination Awards, Silver Medal, Self-Help/Recovery
Foreword Reviews' 2017 INDIEFAB Awards, Finalist

236 pages, paperback, \$14.95,
978-0-87946-984-9, #2018

Also available as an ebook on all platforms.



NORBERT KRAPF, former Indiana Poet Laureate, was born and grew up in a small German-American town in southern Indiana. He is the author of twenty-six books and has received numerous awards, including the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, the Glick Indiana Author Award, and a Creative Renewal Fellowship from the Arts Council of Indianapolis.



CATHOLIC BOY BLUES

A Poet's Journal of Healing

Norbert Krapf

This collection of moving poems offers anyone—including those in positions of authority and trust with children—a path toward understanding, hope, and healing.

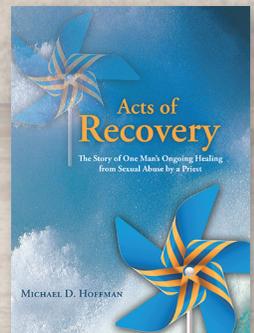
224 pages, paperback, \$14.95,
978-0-87946-988-7, #2012

ACTS OF RECOVERY

The Story on One Man's Ongoing
Healing from Sexual Abuse by a Priest

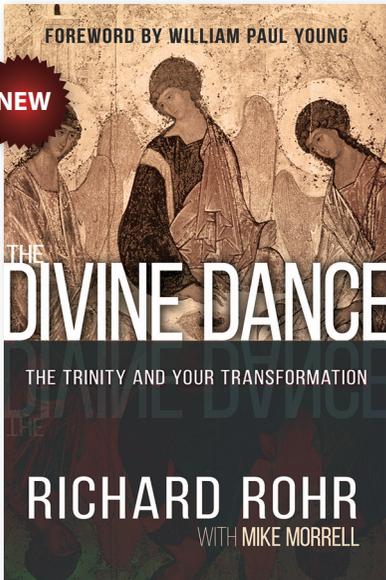
Michael D. Hoffman

96 pages, paperback, \$9.95,
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RICHARD ROHR

Spiritual insights from a master guide



THE DIVINE DANCE

The Trinity and Your Transformation

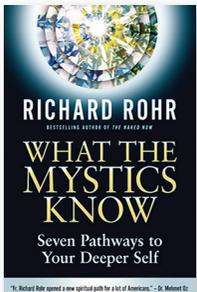
In the pages of this book, internationally recognized teacher Richard Rohr circles around the paradoxical idea of the Trinity as he explores the nature of God. Early Christians who came to be known as the “Desert Mothers and Fathers” applied the Greek verb *perichoresis* to the mystery of the Trinity. The best translation of this odd-sounding word is dancing. Our word choreography comes from the same root. Although these early Christians gave us some highly conceptualized thinking on the life of the Trinity, the best they could say, again and again, was, “Whatever is going on in God is a flow—it’s like a dance.”

224 pages, hardcover, \$23.99, 978-1-62911-729-4, #7209

LA DANZA DIVINA

224 pages, paperback, \$14.99, 978-1-62911-887-1, #7197

RICHARD ROHR, a well-known lecturer, is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation. He has been a regular contributor to *Sojourners* and *Tikkun* magazines and the author of numerous bestselling books. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

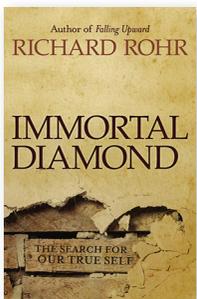


WHAT THE MYSTICS KNOW

Seven Pathways to Your Deeper Self

Organized according to the mystical paths that every worshiper must follow, Richard Rohr draws from the insights of the Christian and Jewish scriptures and the greatest religious writers to reveal that despair, pain, and the struggles of everyday life can transform the deeper self into a beacon of light that aids in the perpetual metamorphosis of others.

176 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-0-82-452039-7, #7179

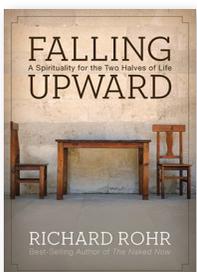


IMMORTAL DIAMOND

The Search for Our True Self

Rohr explores the way in which the True Self, like a diamond buried deep within, must, like Jesus, be resurrected—not a process of resuscitation but of transformation. *Immortal Diamond* (whose title is taken from a line in a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem) explores the deepest questions of identity, spirituality, and meaning in Richard Rohr’s inimitable style.

255 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-1-118-30359-7, #7083



FALLING UPWARD

A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is the opposite. What looks like “falling down” can largely be experienced as “falling upward.”

198 pages, paperback, \$19.95, 978-0-470-90775-7, #7053

COMPANION JOURNAL FOR FALLING UPWARD

181 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-1-118-42856-6, #7082

WHO GAVE US THE HELL WE BELIEVE IN (OR DON'T)?

An engaging, erudite, illuminating—and hilarious—exploration

INVENTING HELL

Dante, the Bible, and Eternal Torment Second Edition

Jon M. Sweeney

Foreword by Richard Rohr

Do you think Hell has nine levels, each one worse than the previous? Do you think that Hell is so hot it can burn your skin right off your body? Do you think that God's punishment will fit the sins we commit? If so, you think that because of Dante, not the Bible. Maybe the Hell you do (or don't) believe in is the one the Renaissance literary master Dante Alighieri described in the Inferno section of his epic poem *The Divine Comedy*. This is the Hell of eternal damnation that most of us were raised to fear, the place where, we are told by Dante, "Abandon all hope, you who enter here." But it turns out that Dante's vision of Hell is not based very much on the Hebrew or the Christian Scriptures but on an amalgam of sources from Greek and Roman philosophy to Medieval morality plays to Islam's Qu'ran—all stitched together by an accomplished artist to scare the bejesus out of all of us.

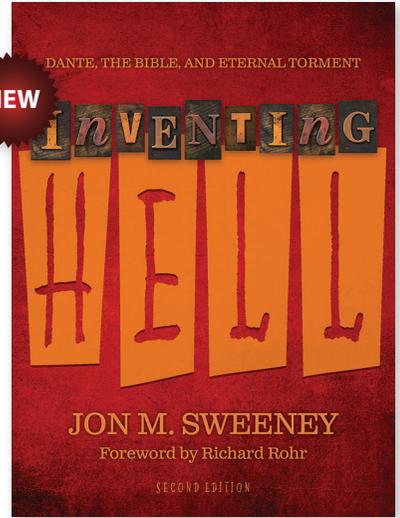
This story of how Hell got "invented" is engaging, erudite, and illuminating. It is also hilarious. Jon Sweeney, convert to Catholicism and married to a rabbi, author of two dozen of his own religious books and editor of hundreds of others, delves into the question of Hell with intellectual curiosity, sincere faith, and good humor. He pretty much proves that it was Dante who gave us the Hell we have, and then he admonishes us to think again about the hell that exists around us every day.

Allow this book to help you reflect on what you believe about evil and what happens to bad people and just how merciful your God might be. It could be the most important theology book you ever read.

216 pages, paperback, \$15.95, 978-0-87946-596-4, #1160

"To be frank, I think that perhaps no single belief has done more to undercut the spiritual journey of more Western people than the belief that God could be an eternal torturer of people who do not like him or disobey him. And this after Jesus exemplified and taught us to love our enemies and forgive offenses 70 x 7 times! The very idea of Hell (with a capital 'H'), as Jon Sweeney explains in this magnificent book, constructs a very toxic and fear-based universe, starting at its very center and ground. Hatred, exclusion, and mistreatment of enemies is legitimated all the way down the chain of command."

—FROM THE FOREWORD BY RICHARD ROHR



"Every minister, priest, rabbi, and sheikh needs to read this book, and so do we all."

Rabbi David Zaslow, author,
Jesus: First-Century Rabbi

"His scholarship is impeccable and his sense of humor ubiquitous. Dante himself would have loved this one!"

Phyllis Tickle, author,
The Age of the Spirit

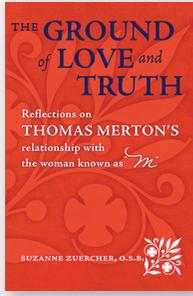
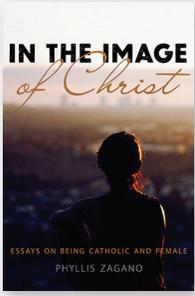


JON M. SWEENEY is an independent scholar, culture critic, editor, and publisher. He is the author of more than twenty-five books, including *The Pope*

Who Quit: A True Medieval Tale of Mystery, Death, and Salvation and *Francis of Assisi in His Own Words: The Essential Writings*. He writes regularly for *America* and *The Tablet*. He is married and the father of four.

NEW APPROACHES TO IMPORTANT ISSUES

In church and society



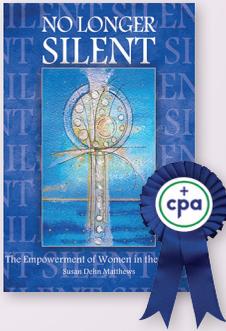
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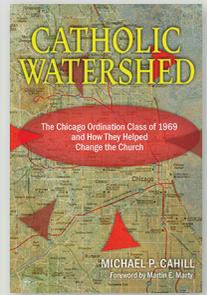
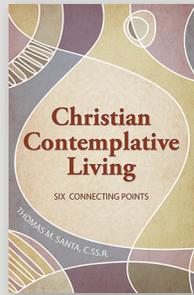
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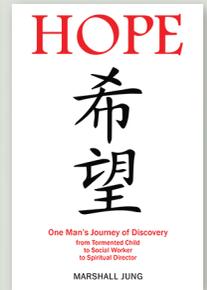
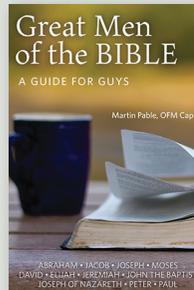
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Michael P. Cahill

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Marshall Jung

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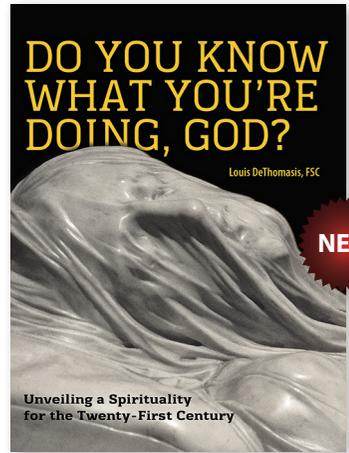
A CALL FOR COMMON-SENSE SPIRITUALITY

New from Brother Louis DeThomasis

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, GOD? Unveiling a Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century

Louis DeThomasis, FSC

Brother Louis is at it again: challenging the very nature of belief in the modern world and how human beings can practice an authentic spirituality in the twenty-first century. His newest book is aimed specifically at Roman Catholics, but it will be read by seekers of all Christian denominations, all faiths, and all those searching for a faith that makes sense to them today.



EXCERPT FROM *DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, GOD?*

In our own perplexing attempts to peer beneath the veil of theological convention, we may discover there is a higher truth in questions that can't be answered than in answers that can't be questioned. Jesus, the great communicator, used the things with which his disciples had everyday familiarity to convey his message of salvation and the power of universal love: the lilies of the field, wheat and chaff, a mustard seed, lost sheep, fig trees, the power of Caesar, toiling in the fields, the nets of the fishermen. But is that how he would choose to speak to us today, in the third millennium since his death? Would he not speak instead of quarks and Wall Street capitalism, organ transplants, nuclear arsenals, gender identity, our failing stewardship of the planet, racial animus, income disparity, and unwelcome refugees? Who, we may ask, are the outcasts of our society today with whom he would seek communion? What contemporary hypocrites would suffer his scorn? Whom would he drive from the temple today? These are questions that have the power to engage and awaken us.

BROTHER LOUIS DE THOMASIS, FSC, a member of the De La Salle Christian Brothers, is President Emeritus of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and Chairman of Christian Brothers Investment Services–Global. He is the author of *Flying in the Face of Tradition*, *Dynamics of Catholic Education*, *All Things to All People*, and co-author, with Cynthia Nienhaus, CSA, of *The Silent Schism: Healing the Serious Split in the Catholic Church*.

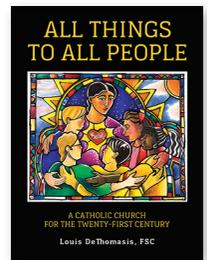


132 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-979-5, #2025
132 pages, hardcover, \$19.95, 978-0-87946-978-8, #2024

ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE A Catholic Church for the Twenty-First Century

Louis DeThomasis, FSC

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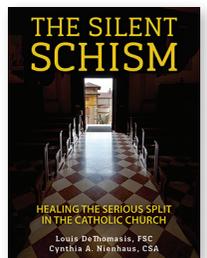


118 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-985-6, #2016

THE SILENT SCHISM Healing the Serious Split in the Catholic Church

Louis DeThomasis, FSC, and Cynthia A. Nienhaus, CSA

Using what Pope Francis has called “the grammar of simplicity,” the authors offer solutions for how to heal current schism in the Catholic Church.



128 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-996-2, #2004

PARISH AND COMMUNITY

New ideas for congregations and communities



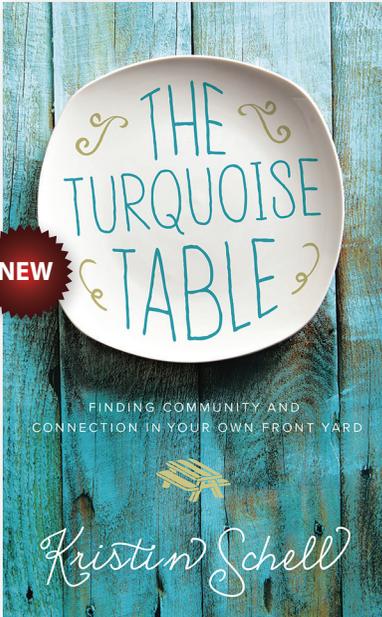
BAPTIZED FOR THIS MOMENT **Rediscovering Grace All Around Us** *Stephen Paul Bouman*

Stephen Bouman explores how congregations may best respond to the many public crises that confront us today—mass shootings, terrorist attacks, hurricanes, flood, wildfires, tornadoes, even the debilitating effects of chronic and deep-rooted problems like racism and community violence. He describes in practical detail the ways congregations can create spaces to lament, develop living liturgies, build public mission tables, and engage with others in discovering the transformative power of grace all around us.



164 pages, paperback, \$18.95,
978-0-87946-983-2, #2020

“Lutheran Pastor and former Bishop Stephen Bowman presents an excellent blueprint for how congregations can respond to appeals for help from around the world or across the street. What I especially appreciate is his passionate belief that there is always enough ‘grace all around us’ so that we can respond effectively to all who ask our help.” — ★★★★★ Amazon review



THE TURQUOISE TABLE **Finding Community and Connection** **in Your Own Front Yard**

Kristin Schell

In today’s fast-paced culture, many of us rarely see—or even know—our neighbors. We rush off to work, spend hours shuttling children to sporting events and music programs, tackle lawn chores late into the evening or all weekend long. How can we make the connections we crave? In *The Turquoise Table*, Kristin Schell suggests we start in our own front yards.

This four-color gift book offers the principles and steps we can use to create a spot (preferably a turquoise table) where people gather. Each chapter ends with an activity, a story of how that chapter’s precept worked in an individual’s life, and a recipe to entice neighbors to the table. Stress-free ideas, simple tips, and funny and heartwarming stories make it a breeze for readers to create their own Turquoise Table community.

216 pages, hardcover, \$16.99, 978-0-71809-558-1, #7226

KRISTIN SCHELL, an established speaker and blogger, is passionate about community and has served at every level, from grassroots-level work in church and local nonprofits as well as our nation’s capital. Founder of The Turquoise Table and Front Yard People movement, she travels the country to share her encouraging words on opening our lives and homes to others. She lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband and their four children.



SEASONS OF THE SLAVIC SOUL
A Quest for an Authentic Polish Spirituality

Claire M. Anderson

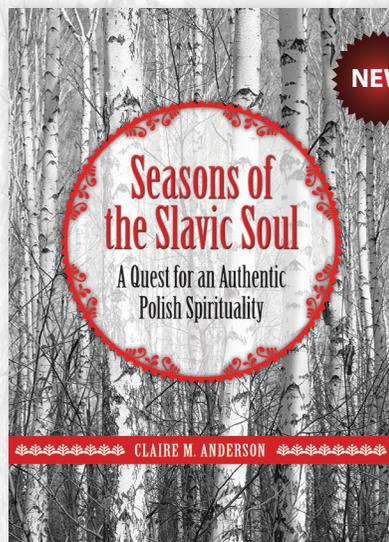
What makes Slavic, and specifically Polish, spirituality unique and compelling today? The rich and long Slavic spiritual tradition holds that everyday holiness thrives on different seasons—through Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter and from consolation to desolation and everything in between. Claire Anderson, of Polish descent and currently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Wisconsin, explores this tradition and expands it by connecting these seasons to the rhythms and practices in her own Polish cultural tradition and the physical world around her.

Seasons of the Slavic Soul is an ideal companion for both nature retreat and spiritual pilgrimage—or a combination of the two. Drawing on the author’s deep engagement through years of travel and research, the book introduces the reader into the vast spiritual and cultural resources within the Polish community and invites awareness of the connections between us human beings and the natural world. It reveals the gift that is at the heart of all life.

Anderson characterizes *Seasons of the Slavic Soul* as “a journey of integration.” Readers who join her quest for an authentic Polish spirituality will be well rewarded.

106 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-652-7, #1165

CLAIRE M. ANDERSON is the American-born great-granddaughter of Polish immigrants. She is presently the Director of Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.



“A deeply rich and yet accessible look at Slavic culture through the lens of spirituality, poetry, art, mythology, and history. Claire Anderson shares stories, traditions, and insights that made my soul leap for joy. In so many ways, this book contains all of our collective stories, regardless of our ethnicity or background. Both profound and yet simple, this gem of a book has something for everyone.”

—Julianne Donlon Stanz,
 Director of New Evangelization,
 Diocese of Green Bay

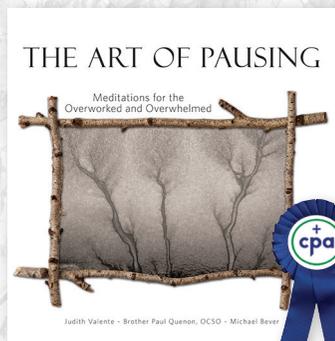
THE ART OF PAUSING
Meditations for the Overworked and Overwhelmed

Judith Valente, Brother Paul Quenon, and Michael Bever

The poems and reflections in this beautiful book are the work of three writers who inhabit very different worlds. But for each, the reading and writing of haiku is an essential spiritual practice. Ninety-nine meditations, each built upon a haiku by one of the three authors, will speak to anyone who loves beauty and has a penchant for reflection in our action-packed, fast-paced world.

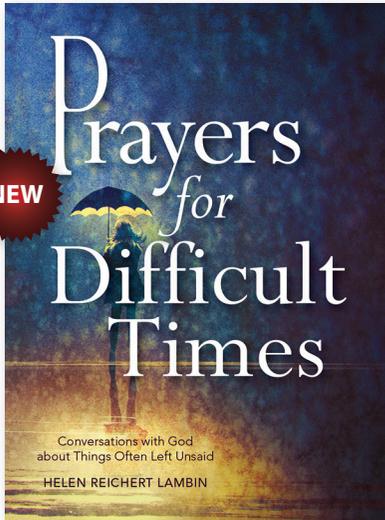
CPA Book Awards, 2014, Second Place, Spirituality, Softcover

216 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-509-4, #1083



PRAYERFUL RESPONSES TO LOSS AND STRESS

Prayers for our days and nights and the seasons of life



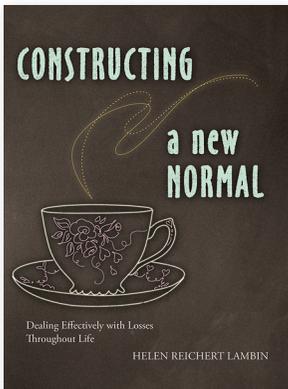
PRAYERS FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

**Conversations with God
about Things Often Left Unsaid**

Helen Reichert Lambin

Prayer has to begin where you are, but sometimes, especially in difficult times, it can be a challenge to understand where you are or how to get “there,” “there” being that place where conversation can begin and your relationship with God flourish. Helen Lambin offers personal experiences, wisdom from a variety of religious traditions, and prayers to help you take the leap of faith. Each of Lambin’s original prayers is followed by a passage from *The Message: Catholic/Ecumenical Edition*. And each chapter has room for you to write your own prayers and to note your favorite Scripture passages. Themes include: exhaustion, loneliness, frustration, impatience, regret, depression, loss, disappointment, and a good helping of hope.

76 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-588-9, #1144



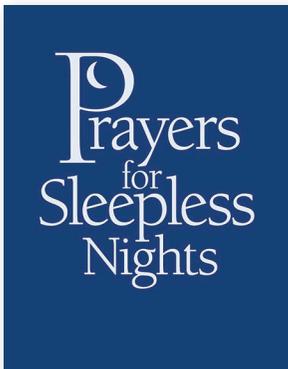
CONSTRUCTING A NEW NORMAL

Dealing Effectively with Losses Throughout Life

Helen Reichert Lambin

Even ordinary everyday losses can catapult us into chaos until we find a way to reclaim or transition to a normal life. With wisdom born from her bumps and bruises, Helen Lambin knows what it means to live life to the fullest, wherever we may be in grief and transition. If you don’t know Helen personally when you open this book, you will soon feel that you and she are the kind of friends who can share fears, failings, faith, dreams, and an ordinary grace-filled life.

160 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-536-0, #1104



PRAYERS FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Helen Reichert Lambin

This gentle prayer book encourages readers to create a personal relationship with God through prayer during the dark hours of the night. Topics include: bills, boundaries, forgiveness, illness, working.

80 pages, paperback, \$10.95, 978-0-87946-405-9, #1020

HELEN REICHERT LAMBIN has been writing practical books on scripture, theology, grief, and prayer for over thirty years. Now in her eighties, Helen lives in Chicago, where she enjoys her children, granddaughter, and grandpets. Because of her many tattoos (all done since she turned seventy), Helen is known in the local media as “the tattooed grandma of Edgewater.”

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Kay Metres

Clinical psychologist and spiritual director Kay Metres discovered during the course of her treatment for breast cancer what she came to think of as nine gifts, nine surprising discoveries about herself, about her family and friends, about the wide world around her, that now enrich her life in ways she could not have imagined, in ways she felt compelled to share with other women.

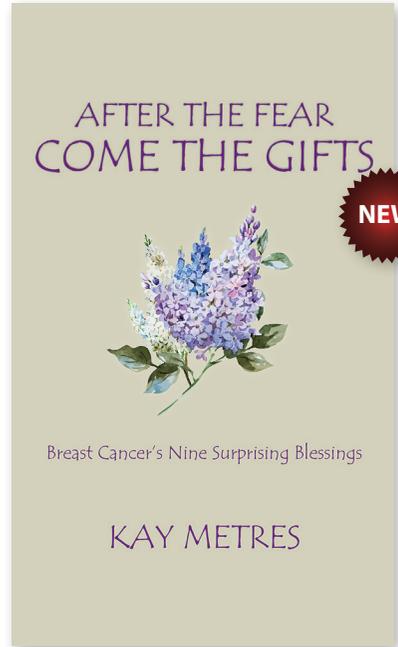
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On not being alone anymore
- Interdependence: *Cooperating in your healing*
- Surrender: *The power of giving up*
- Sisterhood: *The wonderful women in your life*
- No Longer Needing to Be Right:
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- Savoring Each Day: *Mindfulness in every moment*
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- Deeper Spirituality: *The unending pool of strength*

136 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-980-1, #2023



Before becoming a therapist, KAY METRES was a college English instructor, and later a hospital chaplain. She has three far-flung kids and four precious grandchildren whom she loves to visit. Raised in southern New England, she now lives with her husband Phil in suburban Chicago.



“As a cancer survivor, I found myself responding “yes” over and over again to Kay’s reflections on her own journey with this life-changing disease. How I wish I would have had the benefit of her wisdom as an anchor and a guide when I was in the midst of the storm.”

— Chaplain Bob Backis, BCC

NAVIGATING ALZHEIMER'S

12 Truths about Caring for Your Loved One

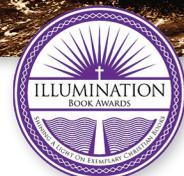
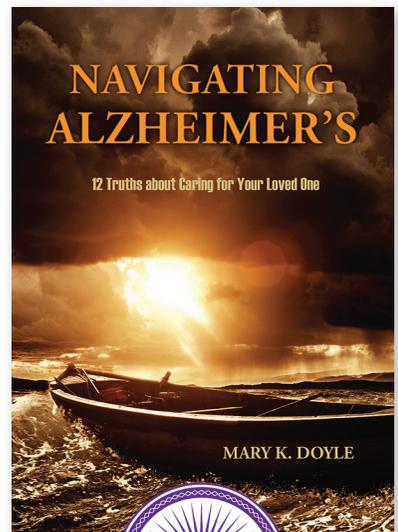
Mary K. Doyle

Navigating Alzheimer's is an invaluable resource by a woman who has been there. It offers those caring for someone with the disease an honest yet encouraging guide to their tremendous responsibilities and the challenges that lie therein. Topics include the difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's, the unpredictable nature of the disease, the role caregivers play in their loved one's behavior, planning required in anticipation of an event, the emotions attached to caring for someone with Alzheimer's, handling insensitive comments from outsiders, the real costs of caregiving, when to call in additional help, and the importance of caregivers to enjoy the present.

2017 Illumination Awards, Gold Medal, Illness/Death/Dying

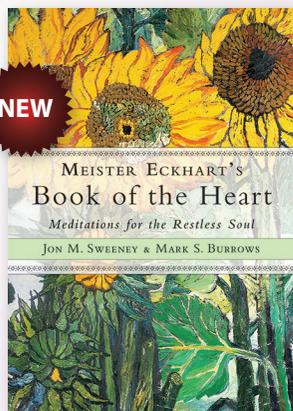
112 pages, paperback, \$14.95,
978-0-87946-989-4, #2011

Available as an ebook on all platforms.



MEDITATIONS FOR RESTLESS SOULS

From Jesus, the saints, and Pope Francis

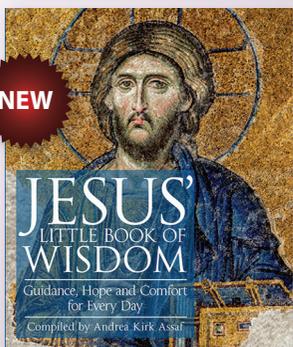


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Jon M. Sweeney and Mark S. Burrows

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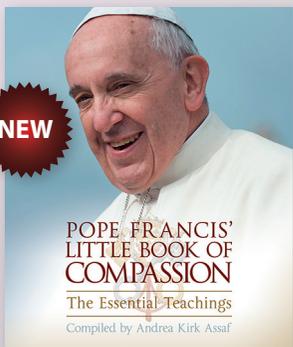


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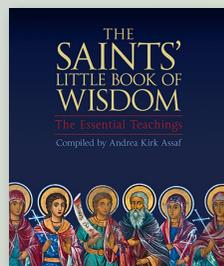
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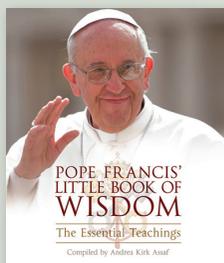


POPE FRANCIS' LITTLE BOOK OF WISDOM The Essential Teachings

Compiled by Andrea Kirk Assaf

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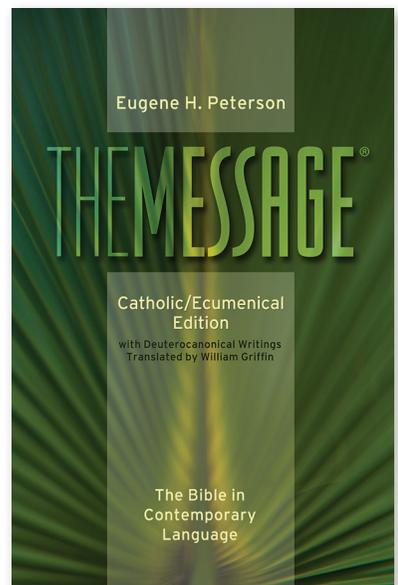
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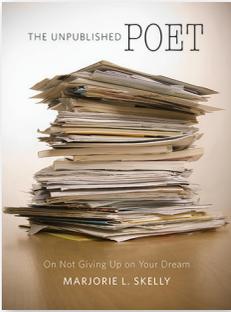
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WE SHALL OVERCOME

On pursuing dreams and overcoming sorrows



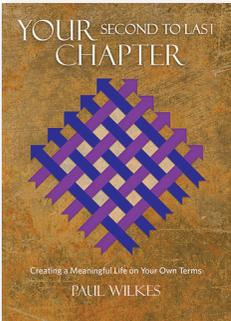
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120 pages, paperback, \$14.95, 978-0-87946-565-0, #2014

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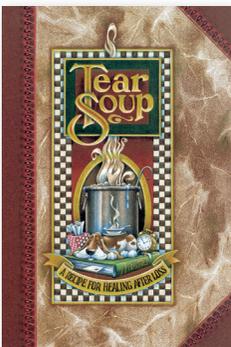
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Lynn Cassella-Kapusinski, who endured her own parents' divorce when she was eleven, shares her own experiences to help those teens whose parents have separated or divorced. This workbook will help young people express some of their anger, fear, and frustration, and realize they are not alone in this tough time.

CPA Book Awards, 2007, Second Place, Family Life

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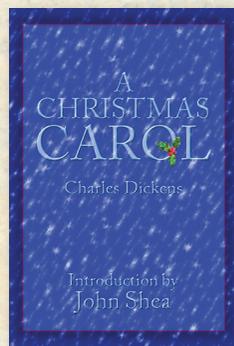
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NEW! See page 17 for John Shea's *Seeing Haloes*.



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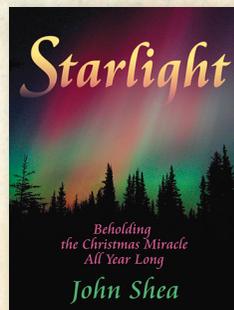
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John Shea

In this provocative book, John Shea explores how through story we can come to understand the divine and appreciate the freewheeling nature of the Spirit through the images, stories, customs, and ideas associated with Christmas. This edition of *Starlight* also includes a new Foreword and Afterword by the author.

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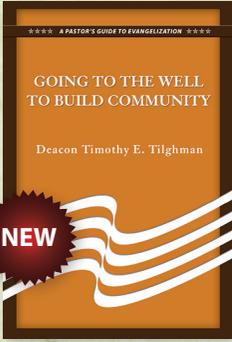
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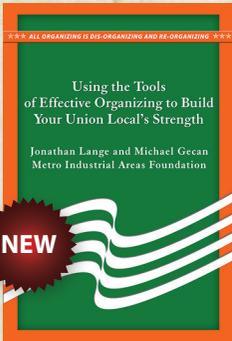


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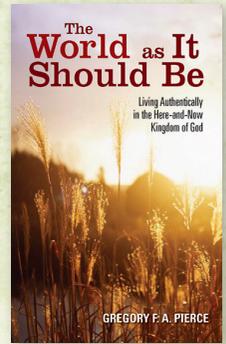
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Gregory F. A. Pierce

Through thirty short essays, businessman, social-justice worker, and citizen-organizer Greg Pierce sets out to help people reimagine the kingdom of God as Jesus originally intended — it is both heavenly and earthly, and because it is to come “on earth, as it is in heaven,” each of us is called to roll up our shirtsleeves and help make this world the way it should be.

160 pages, paperback, \$9.95, 978-0-87946-491-2 #7039



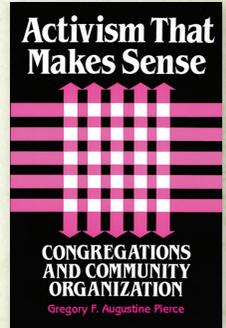
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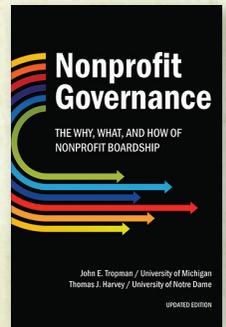
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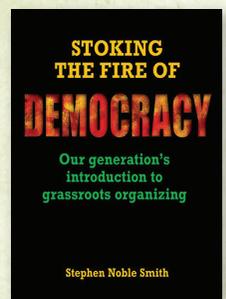
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Stephen Noble Smith

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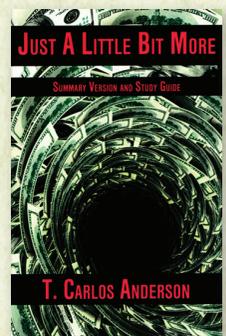
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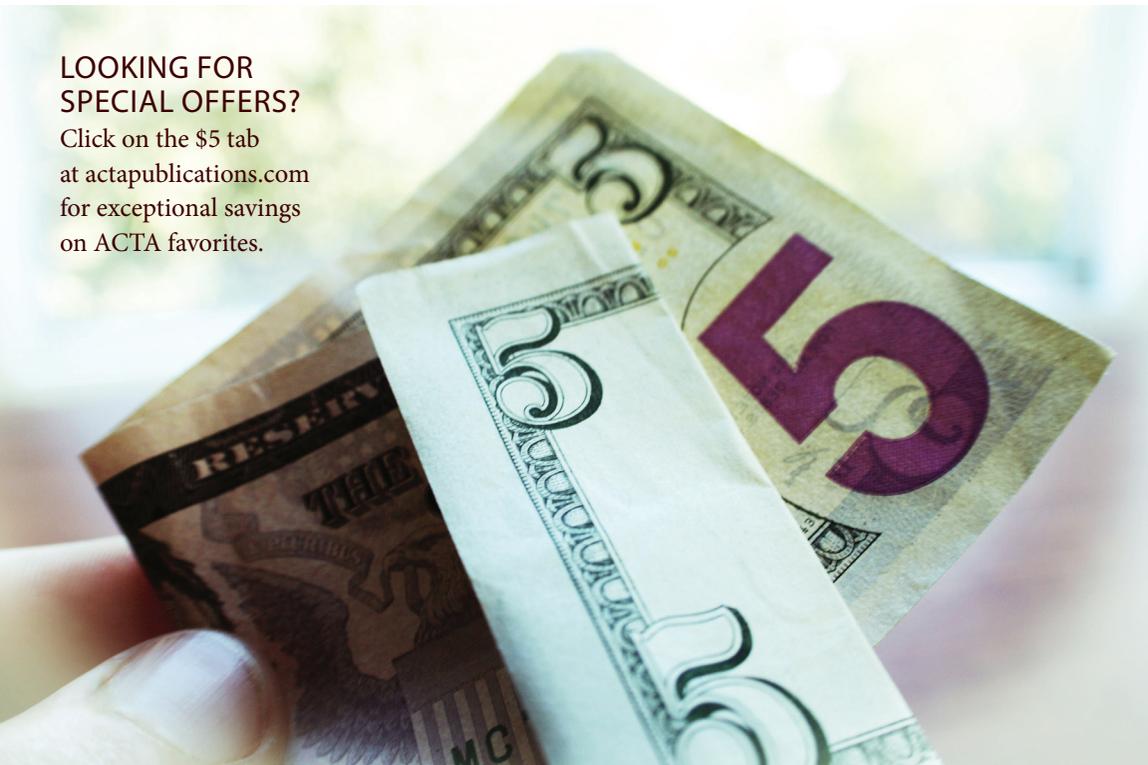
INDEX

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- 12 Days of Christmas 27
- Action Creates Public Life 28
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- Acts of Recovery 15
- After the Fear Come the Gifts 23
- All Things to All People 19
- Alter Girl 14
- Art of Pausing 21
- Awaken the Stars 4
- Baby in Mommy's Tummy 12
- Baptized for This Moment 20
- Body Trumps the Brain 28
- Catholic Boy Blues 15
- Catholic Watershed 18
- Cat's Foot 5
- Christian Contemplative Living 18
- Christmas Carol 27
- Community Organizing Series 28, 29
- Constructing a New Normal 22
- Curious Fox 12
- Danza Divina 16
- Divine Dance 16
- Dog Who Was There 6
- Do You Know What You're Doing, God? 19
- Effective Organizing
for Congregational Renewal 28
- Faith Stripped to Its Essence 8
- Falling Upward 16
- Falling Upward Companion Journal 16
- Freedom From and Freedom For 28
- Geography of God's Mercy 6
- Going to the Well to Build Community 28
- Grace Notes 5
- Grace Notes Audiobook 5
- Great Men of the Bible 18
- Ground of Love and Truth 18
- Hope 18
- Immortal Diamond 16
- In the Image of Christ 18
- Inventing Hell 17
- Jesus' Little Book of Wisdom 24
- Just a Little Bit More 29
- Literary Portals to Prayer
Charles Dickens 11
Edith Wharton 10, 11
Elizabeth Gaskell 11
Hans Christian Andersen 11
Herman Melville 11
Jane Austen 10
Louisa May Alcott 11
Walt Whitman 10
William Shakespeare 11
- Long Yearning's End 6
- Master of Ceremonies 7
- Meister Eckhart's Little Book of the Heart 24
- Mixing It Up in the Public Arena 28
- Navigating Alzheimer's 23
- No Longer Silent 18
- Nonprofit Governance 29
- Not Your Grandparents' Church 14
- Now What Do I Do? 26
- Page the Poet 13
- Pistaco 2-3
- Pope Francis' Little Book of Compassion 24
- Pope Francis' Little Book of Wisdom 24
- Power of Relational Action 28
- Prayers for Difficult Times 22
- Prayers for Sleepless Nights 22
- Public Friendship 28
- Reading in Bed 5
- Rebuilding Our Institutions 28
- Reflecting with Scripture
on Community Organizing 28
- Running into the Arms of God 6
- Saints' Little Book of Wisdom 24
- Seasons of the Slavic Soul 21
- Seeing Haloes 9
- Shrinking the Monster 15
- Silence 8
- Silent Schism 19
- Song of the Dove 8
- Sopa de Lagrimas 26
- So Very Much the Best of Us 5
- Starlight 27
- Stoking the Fire of Democracy 29
- Stories 9
- Stories of the Human Spirit 9
- Story of Christmas 27
- Tear Soup 26
- The Message 25
- Turquoise Table 20
- Unpublished Poet 26
- Using the Tools of Effective Organizing
to Build Your Union Local 28
- Wayward Tracks 6
- We the (little) People 13
- What Is Social Justice? 28
- What the Mystics Know 16
- When God Was a Little Girl 12
- Women of the Passion 8
- World as It Should Be 29
- Your Second to Last Chapter 26

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