



The Book Reviewer

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Yes, and... by Richard Rohr (Spirituality)

This book is a distillation of all of Fr. Rohr's writings, and, like good brandy, it has to be taken in small servings. As in everything that he writes or preaches, the goal is to transform the mindset of the reader or listener from an either/or cerebral mind-set into one which is comfortable with the paradoxes of the spirit; the dark and the light; rising by falling;

being as becoming; and evolution as Christogenesis.

Often criticized for not being sufficiently orthodox, Fr. Rohr's theology is really based solidly on the epistles of St. Paul. In Romans 8:18-39, Paul answers so many of the anguished questions posed by theologians and philosophers: who is God, and the really Real?; who am I and why am I here?; and the so-called

problem of evil. Ultimately, all of these questions are answered by revisiting the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus the Christ, and by defining God as love. Fr. Rohr defines the Trinity as grace, love, and communion.

"...the opposite of every profound truth is another profound truth, and they must listen to one another for wisdom to emerge."

Reviewed by Clare Dinno

Jesus by James Martin, S.J. (Jesus)

Fr. Martin has the great gift in all of his writings of being totally present to the reader; it is as though you were speaking to someone face to face. In this book, which tells of his journey with a fellow Jesuit to Israel, with each place visited you feel as though you are actually there, not because he writes long and boring descriptive passages, which he doesn't. Just an adjective here and there, and you are in the scene, with the sound and the smell of that place, plus his very personal impressions.

The places visited are all on tourist guide lists—some are authentic, some not. Each of the sites is connected to a gospel story, and the presence of Jesus—in a synagogue, on a boat, on a mountain, or at "home" in Capernaum—is distinctly felt.



Sometimes Fr. Martin tries too hard to connect the reader to the narrative, as when he says that Mary was in her late teens at the time of the annunciation, which is almost certainly not true. Then, and even now, girls were betrothed when they reached puberty and were married as soon as they could bear children.

However, with only a few such pious lapses. This is a very real and prayerful visit to the Holy Land, and into the mind of Jesus.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno



PLEASE RETURN YOUR BORROWED ITEMS ASAP! SOME HAVE NEVER BEEN RETURNED, AND IT IS EXPENSIVE AND SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE THEM.

Are any of these missing library materials hiding on your shelves at home?

Books:

A Peek Into My Church

The Donkey's Dream

Seeing Christ in the Tabernacle

The Eight Beatitudes

DVDs:

The Jewish Roots of Catholicism

Clare and Francis

Something other than God by Jennifer Fulwiler (Spirituality)

The subtitle of Jennifer Fulwiler's excellent memoir, *How I Passionately Sought Happiness and Accidentally Found It*, strikes a familiar chord in these times of dancing as fast as we can, trying in vain to achieve a life of contentment and meaning.

This delightful and thoughtful account of Fulwiler's journey from faithlessness to skepticism to openness and finally to the Catholic religion is a page-turner, thanks to the author's gift of clarity, humor, and honesty. Leading with a funny and revealing story of attending a Christian summer camp as an adolescent, Fulwiler brings alive each pivotal event

and conversation that, little by little, opened her mind and heart to the possibility that God exists.

The first crack opened when she fell in love with and married a man who, though worldly, ambitious, and non-church-going, identified himself as a Christian. Mystified by this, Fulwiler began to explore the claims of Christianity, reading such classics as *The Confessions of St. Augustine* and *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. This led to her writing a blog in which she openly questioned the validity of what she was discovering. Many well-meaning followers of Christ responded to her queries

and doubts, and she found herself being drawn to those who posted the most reasoned, knowledgeable, and cohesive responses. And guess what...they turned out to be Catholics.

A theme that runs throughout the book concerns the terrible difficulty that she had in relinquishing her life-long pro-choice stance. As she moves through a series of events, one life-threatening, she comes to understand and accept Catholic teaching on respect for life at every stage. Her epiphany in that regard alone makes the book worth reading.

Reviewed by Susan Triplett

From Teilhard to Omega edited by Ilia Delio (Theology)

Ilia Delio has gathered a collection of essays, including one of her own, about the life and thought of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. He was an often misunderstood, but very powerful thinker of the twentieth century. As a geologist and paleontologist, he was in love with the world—with the whole of creation: stars, stones, plants, animals, and humans. As a Jesuit priest, he was also in love with the creator of the world—the Ultimate Reality; an evolutionary God, centered in the person of Jesus Christ.

This cosmic Christ,

Christogenesis, is the source of his being misunderstood by both the scientific community, and by the Vatican. His own Catholic community remains ambiguous concerning evolution, always fearful of the latest in scientific thought, and reluctant to accept the paradox of matter and spirit as one. Orthodox religion is also critical of Chardin because of his focus on the person of Christ, as though that contradicts the dogma of the Trinity. Not so: his Christic, of course, includes the Father creator, and the Holy Spirit, transcendent and imminent in the world. With-

out the Holy Spirit there is no incarnation. Teilhard's vision is of a world continually moving toward greater complexity and consciousness.

In his later writings, which he was forbidden to publish, his concern is for the future of humanity.

"Humanity is at a crossroads; it cannot be considered as a state which has been reached, but as a work that has to be done. If the world is to be thinkable, it must be centered...by the Divinity Himself, who has introduced us into the triune heart of his immensity."

Reviewed by Clare Dinno