

2022 CMA Book Awards

B01: Popular Presentation of the Catholic Faith

First Place

Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?, Timothy P. O'Malley, The McGrath Institute for Church Life, Ave Maria Press

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church. And yet for many today the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is in doubt — a sign of the lack of faith among many of the faithful in the very heart of what we are called to believe. This book will reaffirm and strengthen in each of us the saving mystery of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist and help each of us to evangelize and to lead others to that same understanding. This is a critical issue for our age and one that this book enables us to confront.

Second Place

Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church, Fr. Blake Britton, Ave Maria Press

Nothing has so divided contemporary Catholics than our understanding of the Second Vatican Council and its importance in the life of the Church. This book takes us back to the source documents themselves and challenges us to reflect on the fidelity of the Church to its doctrines and teachings and yet ever open to the work of the Holy Spirit calling for renewal, conversion, deeper faith and greater service. Anyone who is struggling to understand Vatican II and its impact on the Church will be guided to a renewed understanding and appreciation of the guiding hand of God at work in the Church in every age.

Third Place

What to Say and How to Say It, Volume II: More Ways to Discuss Your Faith with Clarity and Confidence, Brandon Vogt, Ave Maria Press

The Church needs more modern day apologists — those who can defend the Church's teaching rationally and lead others to better understand what the Church teaches and why. This book provides clarity in understanding the issues that are stumbling blocks for so many in our modern culture and it gives the reader the confident ability to explain the way in a manner that is respectful, loving and kind. This is a great practical guide for every faithful Catholic.

Honorable Mention

Simple Mercies: How the Works of Mercy Bring Peace and Fulfillment, Lara C. Patangan, OSV

B02: Spirituality: Classical

First Place

Adore: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation, Fr. John Burns, Ave Maria Press

An excellent Advent resource complete with sections for journaling — a good way to keep in the true Advent spirit!

Second Place

Enter the Narrow Gate: Saint Benedict's Steps to Christian Maturity, Susan Muto, OSV

This book will appeal particularly to the more conservative Catholic who is serious about the spiritual life.

B02b: Spirituality: Contemporary

First Place

A Place to Belong: Letters from Catholic Women, Corynne Staesinic, Pauline Books & Media

This is a very beautiful book. The cover, size, and quality of the print and pictures invites you to read and reflect. The women writers share the simplicity of their heart and it echoes within. This book will be a special companion for you on the spiritual journey!

Second Place

Ronald Rolheiser: Essential Spiritual Writings, Ronald Rolheiser (Alicia von Stammwitz, editor), Orbis Books

Ron Rolheiser is one of the spiritual giants of the older generation. This book reflects a lifetime of his work. It is divided into major areas of interests and into small segments so that you can easily find and choose one meditation for your daily spiritual reflection. This book is a door that brings you to easily enter into the spiritual mystery!

Third Place

Return to the Root: Reflections on the Inner Life, Joyce Rupp, Ave Maria Press

This book is unusual in that it is a seasonal book. It calls you to reflect on each month of the year with poems and short reflections. A very good resource for both personal thought and for group spiritual discussions. This is story book crammed full of spirituality!

Honorable Mention

Saint Hildegard: Ancient Insights for Modern Seekers, Susan Garthwaite, She Writes Press

Every Day with Saint Joseph, Mary Amore, OSV

B03a: Theology: Theological and Philosophical Studies

First Place

The Structures of Virtue and Vice, Daniel Daly, Georgetown University Press

Covers much ground and in accessible way. An enjoyable reading without oversimplifying a complex subject. Thought provoking. Well documented without being overly academic. Non-specialists may find much of interest here.

Second Place

The Relevance of the Stars: Christ, Culture, Destiny, Lorenzo Albacete, Slant Books

I'd prefer a different, more descriptive title, but it is an engrossing read. Very insightful. His anecdotes about prominent Catholic persons is interesting. A formative read. Highly recommended.

Third Place

Regret: A Theology, Paul J. Griffiths, University of Notre Dame Press

A good read, with some solid insights. However, some of the theological propositions could be stated clearer. Eclectic.

Honorable Mention

Reimagining Human Rights: Religion and the Common Good, William O'Neill, SJ, Georgetown University Press

B03b: Theology: History of Theology, Church Fathers and Mothers

First Place

Augustine and Tradition: Influences, Contexts, Legacy, David G. Hunter and Jonathan P. Yates (editors), Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

The importance of the writings of Augustine is well known among students and scholars of Catholic theology. What may not be so well known are the extensive and deeper implications that his thought had on the broader scope of Christian theology. This substantial collection of essays by several authors does worthy justice to the influences that shaped Augustine's thought and the continued importance of his contributions to this day.

Second Place

The Sayings and Stories of the Desert Fathers and Mothers: Volume 1; A–H (Ēta), Translated by Tim Vivian, Liturgical Press

This volume explores a little known source of Christian spirituality, at least for the general reader. However, it does offer an excellent excavation of the desert mystics and those regarded as early the Christian parents of monastic type spirituality. The actual quotations and the extensive references to sources will provide the inquiring reader with a wealth of information and inspiration.

Third Place

Callings and Consequences: The Making of Catholic Vocational Culture in Early Modern France, Christopher J. Lane, McGill-Queen's University Press

B03c: Theology: Morality, Ethics, Christology, Mariology, and Redemption

First Place

Business Ethics and Catholic Social Thought, Daniel Finn, Georgetown University Press

Very accessible edited text bringing in various scholars approaching the issue of business ethics. What is missing is a common thread. Finn puts it together to some extent in the introduction, but the text would have been a homerun if they connected each other's essays.

Second Place

Desire, Darkness, and Hope: Theology in a Time of Impasse, Edited by Laurie Cassidy and M. Shawn Copeland, Liturgical Press

A delightful read with a focus on Constance FitzGerald's contribution to Carmelite spirituality. This edited volume offers a take on FitzGerald's spirituality and its contemporary application to a world of "desire, darkness, and hope."

Third Place

The Abuse of Conscience: A Century of Catholic Moral Theology, Matthew Levering, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Fascinating and quite thorough study of conscience as the primary preoccupation of Catholic moral theology. Levering makes the compelling and helpful case for a virtue-centered approach over and against the heavy emphasis on conscience.

Honorable Mention

Revelation in the Vernacular, Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Orbis Books

Radical Sufficiency: Work, Livelihood, and a US Catholic Economic Ethic, Christine Firer Hinze, Georgetown University Press

B04a: Scripture: Popular Studies

First Place

Ponder: Contemplative Bible Study for Year C, Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, Liturgical Press

This book takes year C of the Sunday cycle of readings and combines a bible study on those readings with a contemplative approach. This series of reflections is a gift for every preacher on the Sunday readings and anyone who loves a contemplative approach to scripture.

Second Place

Just Rest: Receiving God's Renewing Presence in the Deserts of Your Life, Sonja Corbitt, Ave Maria Press

This book offers us reflections on letting go, letting God take over, and becoming restful. The book takes each level of ourselves and looks at how we can bring that level to rest. The book is

modeled after the Exodus experience of the Jewish people. A good book for those who live with anxiety.

Third Place

The Promise of Deliverance: Reading Second Isaiah, Michael Casey, Orbis Books

This book is a study on the Hebrew Scripture of Second Isaiah. It is very readable and very meditative. It would be a good book to use with a discussion group for the Lenten Season.

Honorable Mention

From Worry to Wonder: A Catholic Guide to Finding Peace through Scripture, Melissa Overmyer, Ascension (Ascension Press)

The Life of Jesus Christ: Understanding the Story of the Gospels, Russell Shaw, OSV

B04b: Scripture: Academic Studies

First Place

The Forty Parables of Jesus, Gerhard Lohfink, Liturgical Press

The author is such a lucid writer and competent exegete with a grasp of real world applications that anything he writes is pleasant to digest. People at all levels of biblical competence would enjoy this and find it helpful. The publisher also presents his work well. Highly recommended.

Second Place

Interpreting Paul: The Canonical Paul, Volume 2, Luke Timothy Johnson, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

The author's academic swan song, is a personal commentary that makes one think. This collection of articles opens up new vistas into Paul's thought and once again reveals the author's penchant for eclectic perspectives. Great reading, but not for the faint of heart. Any serious student of Scripture will find it provocative and stimulating.

Third Place

Five Models of Scripture, Mark Reasoner, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

An objective, ecumenical treatment of key biblical interpretation issues. Not polemical, and very accessible. Very interesting reading, and informative to persons at all levels of biblical literacy.

Honorable Mention

John 1-10, Mary L. Coloe, Liturgical Press

In the Beginning Was the Word: An Annotated Reading of the Prologue of John, Anthony Esolen, Angelico Press

B05: Liturgy

First Place

Lay-Led Liturgies for Prophetic Times, Rev. William J. Bausch, Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

This collection of liturgical celebrations that can be led by a lay presider is an excellent resource and should find its way into the liturgical library of every faith community. The current need for lay led liturgies has touched every liturgical assembly. The liturgies are very well organized; the prayer texts are theologically sound; the music selections are appropriate; and the reflections are thoughtful and evocative. A second collection is eagerly awaited!

Second Place

Thirsty and You Gave Me Drink, Contributors include: Richard Rohr, OFM; James Martin, SJ; Phyliss Zangano, PhD; Brian McLaren, et al., Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

This collection of homilies follows the pattern of a previous collection from the same publisher and the same editor. They are equally engaging, opening up new insights to the scripture texts of the Sunday lectionary. The reflections by the various authors will not disappoint either the discerning homilist, or the listening assembly. This is a “must have” resource for today’s preachers.

Third Place

Let the Peoples Praise You: Psalms for the Liturgical Year, Karen Schneider Kirner, Liturgical Press

This collection of Psalms set to original melodies will be a welcome addition to the repertoire of any music ministry. The psalms are among the most popular for liturgy and the melodies are crafted with both a prayerful and sing-able intent. A wonderful collection.

Honorable Mention

New Church, New Altar: A Commentary on the Order of Dedication of a Church and an Altar, Paul Turner, Liturgical Press

Sacred Oils, Paul Turner, Liturgical Press

B06a: Pastoral Ministry: Parish Life

First Place

Here With Us: A Parish Guide to Serving People with Dementia, Michael Swan, Novalis Publishing

The author presents a subject not much thought about in our communities of worship. It is filled with practical tips for the parish to initiate and fulfill. What a gem — to give renewed life to those afflicted with dementia. What a help to those looking to aid dementia patients remain an intimate part of the church community without adding to their stress in living with the disease.

Second Place

Holy Week at Home, John T. Kyler, Liturgical Press

A little book packed with the richness of Palm Sunday, Triduum and Easter Sunday for those who cannot get to church, with the added help of discussing these beautiful rituals with others. An unfortunate lack is for the Easter Vigil; while it suggests reading “each of these Scripture passages,” and asks the question, “which Easter Vigil reading from Hebrew Scriptures your favorite? Why?” the readings are not referenced.

B06b: Pastoral Ministry: Catechetical

First Place

Turn to the Lord: Forming Disciples for Lifelong Conversion, Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Liturgical Press

For anyone interested in or responsible for religious instruction, faith formation or sacramental preparation this is a must read. DeLorenzo’s book is in two parts. Part one is designed to build confidence in and understanding of the core of our Catholic faith for parents, catechists and teachers. This is done in 25 brief, well written chapters. Part two, also in 25 chapters, offers a guide to lead these sessions for a ‘Catholic Formation Group.’ Ideally these groups meet in homes rather than classrooms where parents and catechists teach, witness, and mentor those preparing for full initiation into the Catholic faith. “If we want people to feel at home in the mission of the Church, why not use a home to form them for it?” DeLorenzo has designed a thorough and inspiring guide for this unique venture in faith formation.

Second Place

Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?, Timothy P. O'Malley, The McGrath Institute for Church Life, Ave Maria Press

What Timothy P. O'Malley sets out to accomplish in this brief volume on the Eucharist he does so with clarity, precision and heart. Drawing on scripture, patristics, tradition and sound theology he addresses common misunderstandings that a large percentage of American Catholics have about the real presence. He lays out a solid catechetical plan to address these distortions and rebuild the faithful in both reverence and understanding so that we may better "become what we receive." It is unusual to come across such a combination of scholarship, pastoral insight, and devotion but this is exactly what O'Malley provides.

B07: Church Professional

First Place

Ars Celebrandi: Celebrating and Concelebrating Mass, Father Paul Turner, Liturgical Press

An important contribution that directly contributes to the preparation, appreciation, and celebration of the Mass by those who are entrusted with this sacramental leadership. It offers the directions that are necessary but also provides the nuances that a good presider learns to appreciate and develop. A couple of "overlooked" and not entirely understood options are also introduced in a manner that invites consideration and pastoral practice.

Second Place

The Heart of the Mission, Cande de Leon, OSV

A simple review of the three fundamental building blocks of effective ministry and communication. The author weaves his personal experience throughout the narrative which enables his simply message to be readily understood and appreciated. He reminds us that evangelization is all about relationship, authentic living, and mutual respect.

Third Place

#Rules_of_Engagement: 8 Christian Habits for Being Good and Doing Good Online, Ann M. Garrido, Ave Maria Press

Nothing new and nothing earth shattering here, but that is perhaps what makes this very readable book so useful. It presents eight very simple rules that are easily understood, appreciated, but most of all, practiced.

B08: Design and Production

First Place

Awaken My Heart Prayer Journal, Brianna Dombo, designer, Ave Maria Press

The beautiful cover and solid binding give an open-arms invitation to take this book in hand. Opens flat enough to make journal entries. Good readable type face with added script and color to enhance quotes and inspirational thoughts. Every page artistically and colorfully calls the user to the text. Ribbon page marker. A hands-down winner in a strong field of competitors in design and production.

Second Place

Adore: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation, Brianna Dombo, designer, Ave Maria Press

Bold color softened by strikingly beautiful art wraps the book covers. The art appears at each new week's meditation. Good choice of typeface and colors throughout the journal with good use of white space. A beautiful invitation in which to journal.

Third Place

Memento Mori: An Advent Companion on the Last Things, Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP, Pauline Books & Media

A most unusual Advent meditation handled artfully and appealingly in its overall design, choice of art and type style with ample white space. An appealing presentation of a not-so-appealing subject.

Honorable Mention

Monuments, Marvels, and Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America, Marion Amberg, OSV

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice, Andrew Wagoner, designer, Ave Maria Press

B09a: Best Books for Youth: Books for Ages 0 – 10

First Place

Pray and Think Imaginative Rosary Book, Candace Camling, Ascension (Ascension Press)

Pray and Think: Imaginative Rosary Book is an absolutely superb step-by-step introduction to learning to pray the Rosary. The easy-to-understand explanation of each mystery is accompanied by colorful and inspiring artwork that only enhances the interactive learning experience and will provide a solid foundation for building a meditative prayer life.

Second Place

God Made Us Just Right, Allia Zobel Nolan, Kregel Publishers

God Made Us Just Right is a delightfully designed board book that will catch and hold the attention of children with its striking colors and fun, playful illustrations. The language is easy to understand and very personable. The perfect blend of words and artwork will appeal to children of all ages.

Third Place

Carlo Acutis: God's Computer Genius, Ellen Labrecque, Pauline Books & Media

Carlo Acutis: God's Computer Genius is a kid-friendly biography of a boy set to be the first millennial saint. The format and layout present a vivid and inviting narrative with interesting and informative side bars.

Honorable Mention

I Hope, Anne Louise Mahoney, illustrated by Joan Subirana, Novalis Publishing

Timothy Talks to Jesus, Irene J. Steele, AS/IS PRESS

B09b: Best Books for Youth: Books for Ages 11 – 16

First Place

Lucia of Fatima, Kathryn Griffin Swegart, self-published

A work of historic fiction that while geared to the younger generation can be enjoyed by parents and grandparents too. The story of Lucia being visited by Our Lady has been told many times over the years, but never in this way. Pressure put on Lucia to retract her stories about the visits by our Lady were unsuccessful. Her faith was so admirable and we can, and should learn from her. The chapters are fast reading, but very thought provoking.

Second Place

Secrets in September, Doreen McAvoy, Elk Lake Publishing, Inc

A fun book with entertaining characters reminiscent of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. While the story is geared towards middle schoolers I think it can be enjoyed by older children as well. We learn of the strength that serves as the glue holding their friendship together. The characters in this story show that like all kids they can make wrong decisions, but in the end when it is most important they made the right decisions. You will want to keep reading to see how this story ends!

Third Place

The Great Adventure Kids Catholic Bible Chronicles, Amy Welborn, Illustrated by Michael LaVoy, Ascension Press

A very simple approach to learning and understanding stories of the Bible. The use of a color coded system to identify each time period is such a great tool. After each story the author tells us where in the Bible the story originated. It is helpful if the reader wants to learn more and have a deeper understanding of the story told. While definitely a book for children, it can be read and enjoyed by all family members.

B09c: Best Books for Youth: Books for Ages 17 – 21

First Place

On Rumor's Deadly Tongue, Deanna Rutledge, Stout-Castle Books (self-published)

This historical tale is intriguing and fast paced, while being a story of faith. The reader is immersed in the time and place along with the appealing characters. The story is neatly woven and riveting.

Second Place

Loving Gabriel (Faith & Kung Fu series, Bk 4), T. M. Gaouette, self-published

A mature story, with real characters, this novel is a page-turner. Faith is the foundation for a complex and modern romance. This is a highly appealing book for young Catholics.

B10: First Time Author of a Book: Biography, Novels or General Theological Subject Matter

First Place

Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church, Fr. Blake Britton, Ave Maria Press

I wish every young person who speaks to me about the “New Mass” and the beauty of the TCM, would read this book. I wish that every angry social media voice that rails against “modernism” would read this book. In short, I wish that every pastoral minister would read this book. Then we can have an actual discussion. It is that clear and that important.

Second Place

Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church, Olga M. Segura, Orbis Books

This is a well-balanced presentation of a very difficult subject. It is written from a perspective not only of experience but also wisdom, and wonderfully reflective. At the same time it clearly presents the essentials.

Third Place

Finding Sanctuary, Jennifer Hubbard, Ave Maria Press

The grief of a mother who has lost her child in the horror of violence. The battle to reclaim the willingness to believe in the midst of unimagined pain. The creativity that emerges from the vulnerability of the moment. The honest questions that perhaps may help another who struggles. The “sanctuary” of grace at work in the life of a woman who was/is called to be a mother and who must discover another path, not of her own choosing.

B11: Family Life

First Place

Motherhood: An Extraordinary Vocation, Dr. Kathryn Rombs, OSV

The author begins this book by stating that motherhood was not her priority growing up. Her love of Christianity developed during her college years and she wed and became a mother while pursuing her PhD. The book attempts to convince the reader that compromises do not have to be made to be both a good mother and a good Christian. Each chapter ends with Questions for reflection. The author explains the changes that have taken place over the years and simplifies the progress women have made. Her quote “motherhood can be a significant part of the successful life of a 21st century woman” sums up the book in my opinion. A great read for young women today!

Second Place

Our Not-Quite-Holy Family: A Practical Guide for Catholic Parents, Mark and Melanie Hart, Ave Maria Press

A well written, honest approach to trying to live a Catholic life while struggling with the world today and it's effects on the family. The author's brutally honest approach to trying to juggle it all makes this such an informative and entertaining read. The Moving Forward section at the close of each chapter, along with the closing prayers are so insightful and such wonderful tools we can put in our pockets and refer to when we are in need,

Third Place

Our House of the Sacred Heart, Annabelle Moseley, En Route Books and Media

An easy read with Chapters broken into small, seeming innocent topics. The author then includes a biblical picture, a scripture quote and a lesson tied to the topic. The ponder and pray section at the end of each chapter makes you think about how relevant the topic is in your life. The chapter ends with a prayer. This book can be enjoyed by all family members and everyone will take away something different.

B12: Marriage & Family Living

First Place

Pilgrimage: A Doctor's Healing Journey, Donna Chacko, MD, Luminare Press

To help enforce her message that inside each of us is the power to improve our own lives the author is brutally honest in sharing the details of her own life. We learn of the struggles she faced in her marriage and her career and she provided us with tools we can use to begin to heal from all the struggles we face in our own lives. The choice is ours. If we commit to this journey we can improve our mental and physical health and we can find ourselves growing closer to God in the process.

Second Place

Beyond Biology: Rethinking Parenthood in the Catholic Tradition, Jacob M. Kohlhaas, Georgetown University Press

What are the accepted roles of gender and sexual orientation that surround Catholic parenthood? The author wants us to question those roles that have been accepted over time. The insights provided attempt to provide a new path the church could take to provide a new foundation. We are reminded families do not have to be a mother and a father. Same sex unions and families being raised by an extended family can be as beneficial to a child. The roles of mother and father need not be so black and white.

Third Place

The Rights of Women: Reclaiming a Lost Vision, Erika Bachiochi, University of Notre Dame Press

A captivating approach to shedding light on such a relevant topic in the world today. The author helps us understand the development of feminism over the centuries. The works of philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft from over 200 years ago are contrasted to the rights women hold today. The topics of sexual exploitation and unfair treatment of women are discussed. Author Bachiochi writes of the struggles faced by both women and families to “reclaim the lost vision” to unite families and enforce the ideals of feminism in today’s society.

B13: History

First Place

Soldiers of God in a Secular World: Catholic Theology and Twentieth-Century French Politics, Sarah Shortall, Harvard University Press

This book traces the work of French Jesuit and Dominican nouveaux théologiens, which repositioned French Catholicism’s engagement with the political sphere, moving beyond “throne and altar” loyalties and toward a constructive engagement with modern secularism. The impact of these theologians is well known, but this book brings to the fore a crucial aspect of their agenda. Sarah Shortall’s book is a must read for Catholics who seek to understand the context of the teachings of Vatican II, which leaned so heavily on these French theologians.

Second Place

Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front, Charles R. Gallagher, Harvard University Press

This timely volume focuses on the Christian Front, a Catholic movement of the 1930s and World War II, noted for its sympathies for Nazi Germany’s ideological priorities. This engaging read traces efforts to thwart this fascist leaning crusade, and the actions of powerful political and religious leaders who shielded them. This book is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the historical context of certain forms of Catholic political activism in our own time.

Third Place

Callings and Consequences: The Making of Catholic Vocational Culture in Early Modern France, Christopher J. Lane, McGill-Queen’s University Press

This study explores a neglected but important aspect of early modern French Catholicism. Christopher Lane traces the emergence of a Catholic vocational culture marked by four

characteristics: urgency (salvific imperative), inclusiveness (even those those in the lay state), method (discernment practices), and liberty (from parental coercion). This study has relevance for our own era, because this early modern innovation continues to be a powerful paradigm for those attracted to religious life.

Honorable Mention

The Making of the Bible: From the First Fragments to Sacred Scripture, Konrad Schmid and Jens Schröter, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press

Black Catholic Studies Reader: History and Theology, David J. Endres, Catholic University of America Press

B14: Biography

First Place

Man of Dialogue: Thomas Merton's Catholic Vision, Gregory K. Hillis, Liturgical Press

This book is an inspiring read that brings a person into the mind of Thomas Merton and challenges the reader to pursue the spiritual life in earnest.

Second Place

Signs of Hope: Thomas Merton's Letters on Peace, Race, and Ecology, Gordon Oyer, Orbis Books

Thomas Merton is truly a man for all ages and this collection of his letters is a valuable and timely resource.

Third Place

Francis and Clare The Struggles of the Saints of Assisi, Kathleen Brady, Lodwin Press (self-published)

Francis and Clare is a wonderful book that shows the humanness and struggles of two of our greatest saints. For all those interested in the Franciscan charism and for those who have not yet been introduced to it, this book will not disappoint.

Honorable Mention

Carlo Acutis: The First Millennial Saint, Nicola Gori, OSV

Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul, Deanna Witkowski, Liturgical Press

B15: Gender Issues – Inclusion in the Church

First Place

Women in Church Ministries: Reform Movements in Ecumenism, Edited by Margit Eckholt, Dorothea Sattler, Ulrike Link-Wieczorek, and Andrea Strübind, Liturgical Press

This book springs out of a conference of ecumenical women theologians that took place in Germany in 2017. The book has potential for a broad audience interested in the discussion of women's participation and inclusion in "all" ministries in the Church. The conference developed the Osnabruck Theses, a springboard to future conversation which calls for the inclusion of women in ministries, their understanding being, without which unity in the church is impossible. The editors acknowledge that there is an openness with Protestant denominations and some Orthodox patriarchies to women, but not in the Catholic Church whose the closed position of the Catholic Church "marginalizes" half the members of the Roman Catholic Church. The book leaves open paths in the Catholic Church to ordination by suggesting changes in Canon Law, a relooking at certain Vatican II documents, and engaging in ongoing conversation about whether God has given an immutable instruction relating to women in all ministries or not. Regardless of any personal positions the reader may have relative to this issue, this is a well researched, compelling collection of essays which leaves the question still on the table, at least for some.

Second Place

Tenderness: A Gay Christian's Guide to Unlearning Rejection and Experiencing God's Extravagant Love, Eve Tushnet, Ave Maria Press

Eve Tushnet's *Tenderness* models such a loving and tender God that we all would like to know and be able to love in return. . She models for gay Christians the way that she lives out her faith as a celibate gay Catholic woman. She develops the concept of "covenant friendship" to model God's love for all of us and in turn, our love for God. The author outlines five points about the openness and beauty of celibacy. The Church, and some Christians at times, have made it hard to see God "...through the screen of lies and silences Christians have built to hide his face." She experienced God's tenderness and mercy through the people who were "good to her" when she came out and was open about her gayness. Her book is written for people in the gay community but it has lots of insights for everyone else too. She gives her reader a relatable image of the kingdom of God from the writings of Aaron Taylor: "The image of the Kingdom Jesus gives us is not an image of couples respectably making their way to heaven, like the animals neatly marching into Noah's ark two by two. Instead ...(the image we get of) reading the gospels is a ragtag band of misfits, outcasts, and ragamuffins — the blind, the lame ...leaning on one another as they zigzag their way to the Promised Land." This is certainly representative of the reality we know.

Third Place

Search Me: A Way of the Cross in Solidarity with the LGBTQ Community, John T. Kyler, Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

This brief book offering a method of praying the Stations of the Cross was a beautiful gift with which to begin this Lenten season. This book can be used any time of the year, not only during Lent and it is beautifully instructive and enlightening about how members of the Catholic LGBTQ community see Christ's suffering through their everyday life experience in the Catholic Church. The concluding prayer at the end of every station is applicable to all brothers and sisters who walk in faith together and who do not always walk perfectly.

B17: Diocesan Directory

First Place

2022 CATHOLIC DIRECTORY, Cathedral Foundation Press, Catholic Review Media/Cathedral Foundation Press

The Archdiocese of Baltimore directory illustrates good publishing practice — heavy duty cover stock and tabs, laminated for durability. I have always been an advocate of serif typeface for readability in the text — sans serif is fine for headings — a good blend here, and bright white paper is a further improvement. Table of contents up front is user friendly, as is the quick phone list. Users often open a directory to make a contact, and the list makes that easy. Another plus is the bold announcement of availability of a digital edition. The discussion of structure and functions of departments at the archdiocese is a thoughtful addition to the content.

Second Place

Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Directory 2021-2022, Jonelle L Foltz, Cheryl Dejoie-Methe, MJ Cahill, Clarion Herald

Well done for content and organization, with multiple telephone entries — a quick reference page, plus phone numbers listed for offices, individuals, and so on, along with an alphabetical master index at the back, again with phone numbers. Like the first place directory, this entry also provided brief outlines of the purpose of each archdiocesan office. Serif typeface aids readability, and the full page photos at the end of some sections — e.g. the alligator at Holy Family Parish, p. 10, , or the commemorative bell used at firefighters' funerals, p 118, added interest.

Third Place

Diocese of Rockford Official Directory 2021-22, Office of Communication and Publications, Office of Communication and Publications

Diocese of Rockford directory, if judged on photography and printing alone, would be the clear winner, with full color throughout, high quality photographic reproduction, good use of typography and white space. Map of the diocese, the parish headings and deanery designations all clear and useful.

Honorable Mention

2021-2022 Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic Directory, Angelus Staff, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

B18: Catalog

First Place

Orbis Books Fall 2021 catalog, Orbis Books, Orbis Books

Catalog is attractive, layout is informative and clear, table of contents up front gives good details. I like the footer with the 800 number, hours of operation, and the web address. Also think the inclusion of an order form, in addition to being able to order on line, is good for customers. The large photos of the books offered, along with excellent summaries, and the “also of interest” sidebars is quite good.

Second Place

Parish Resources Fall 2021 Catalog, Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

Of the four catalogs from Liturgical Press, I thought this was the best — table of contents with color coded bars, good illustrations and discussion of the publications. Order form at the back to offer dual ways to order is good. The editor’s note on the inside cover points out the arrangement of contents by area of interest, which is good.

Third Place

Little Rock Scripture Study Fall 2021 Catalog, Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

I like the display of all the covers on page 14, showing the range of topics available. Table of contents could also have listed page number for each section. While the design and illustration are generally good, I thought the illustrations of some inside pages were generally too small.

Honorable Mention

Spirituality Fall 2021 Catalog, Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

Academic and Monastic Studies Catalog 2021-2022, Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

B19: Best Book by a Small Publisher

First Place

Ten Commandments for Church Reform: Memoirs of a Catholic Priest, John Wijngaards, DD, LSS, Acadian House Publishing

In a field of competitive excellence, this memoir takes the top honor. The author comes from the perspective of one of high position in priestly and religious life and with a wealth of pastoral and field experience. A winner for its forward-looking and provocative view of church and proposed reform, as well as for its presentation and production of the book.

Second Place

The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Meditations with Ignatius of Loyola, Patrick Saint-Jean SJ, Anamchara Books

A powerful book absolutely loaded with spiritual help in the so desperately needed work of racial justice. Very readable. A winner that gives more than enough to meditate on for a month.

Third Place

The Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau: 200 Years and Counting, Darlene Smith, Acadian House Publishing

A beautifully produced and well written history of a Catholic girls academy in the deep south. It is not an easy task to present the history of that long-ago time and its thinking on social justice issues with an outlook that seems so outdated now to present day enlightened minds. The photos and total production of this work makes this a monumental work for a small publisher.

Honorable Mention

Where Angels Pass, Ellen Gable, Full Quiver Publishing

B20: Catholic Social Teaching

First Place

The Earth Cries Out: How Faith Communities Meet the Challenges of Sustainability, Gary Gardner, Orbis Books

Very thorough review of the threats to climate change and the grounding of and strategic responses faith communities can offer. A very thick book rich with encouraging and counter examples. Would serve well as a text for environmental ethics or CST course.

Second Place

Stumbling into Grace: How We Meet God in Tiny Works of Mercy, Mary Pezzulo, Ave Maria Press

A compelling text that reframes the corporal works of mercy and offers an insightful contemporary reflection.

Third Place

Just Universities: Catholic Social Teaching Confronts Corporatized Higher Education, Gerald J. Beyer, Fordham University Press

A very interesting text that uses CST to critique higher education.

Honorable Mention

Catholic Social Teaching: A User's Guide, William O'Neill, SJ, Orbis Books

The Church and the Racial Divide: Reflections of an African American Catholic Bishop, Bishop Edward K. Braxton, Orbis Books

B21: Faith and Science

First Place

Every Deep-Drawn Breath, Wes Ely, MD, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

In this book, Dr E. Wesley Ely offers a personal, reflective account of his journey and experiences and evolution as a physician in the ICU. He came the conclusion that critical care had strayed from its hopeful beginnings and lost its way. He discovered how the cutting-edge technology could both exponentially improve survival rates and unintelligently lower quality of

life for survivors. This book offers positive and lasting effects for all who are involved in healthcare. The author concludes with suggestions for resources for patients, families, caregivers, and medical professionals.

Second Place

The Way of Medicine: Ethics and the Healing Profession, Farr Curlin and Christopher Tollefsen, University of Notre Dame Press

The Way of Medicine is an account of an ancient ethical tradition of the medical profession and practice which is guided by moral norms and medical ethics. This book is for people who believe that real moral boundaries should never be traversed. The authors discuss many ethical issues and concerns in medicine from the beginning of life to the end of life. This book is an invaluable contribution to the philosophy of medicine and offers an alternative to PSM, including the resources necessary for practitioners, bioethicists, healthcare workers, professional scholars, and all interested in medicine.

Third Place

The Hours of the Universe: Reflections on God, Science, and the Human Journey, Ilia Delio, Orbis Books

In this book, Ilia Delio awakens the call of the empowering Presence of God in our lives. For it is God who makes all things new and invites us to live on the edge of a new tomorrow. Evolution and technology have resulted in a new consciousness emerging from science and religion. God and the world can no longer be separated. In scholastic theology, the Church had cut herself off from science and philosophy. These essays reveal that the universe is the new monastery, new cathedral, which reveal God's abiding presence.

Honorable Mention

The Cosmic Vision of Teilhard de Chardin, John F. Haught, Orbis Books

An Astronomical Explanation of the Fatima Miracle: Fatima Comet, Ignacio R. Ferrin, Amazon.com

B24: Faithful Citizenship/ Religious Freedom

First Place

On Pilgrimage: The Sixties, Dorothy Day (Robert Ellsberg, editor), Orbis Books

On Pilgrimage is an amazing look at the everyday journeying of Servant of God, Dorothy Day. This segment of her writings on the era of The Sixties, a time of electric excitement and also great disquiet in the world, in the US, in the Catholic Church paints a picture of her great Faith, devotion to the poor, her persuasiveness, her leadership, her courage and her boldness. Her holiness and conviction come out in the monthly columns that she wrote for the Catholic Worker Newspaper, never shying away from the controversial, the unpopular, and the ordinary, to make the world better for those she served.

Second Place

Awakening to the Violence of Systemic Racism, Vince Gallagher and Sherine Green, Paulist Press

This book is an excellent teaching tool for the majority of white Catholics/ Christians who have not experienced personally the sin of racism and are unfamiliar with their Black and Latino brothers and sisters. The structure of the text is conducive to group discussions in a parish or a Catholic high school or college class in that there is narrative supported by statistics and other facts, application to the social teachings of the Catholic Church, a challenge to personal reflection, discussion questions, a response and an invitation to prayer. By knowing people of races other than “white” the authors teach that one gains understanding, love, respect and compassion, which ultimately leads to movement to reverse injustice. The resources and citations are abundant and a tremendous help to anyone wanting to learn more and open their hearts to the demand for racial justice.

Third Place

Politics and Faith in a Polarized World: A Challenge for Catholics, John Milloy, Novalis Publishing

This book is written from the perspective of a Catholic former Minister of Parliament and an Ontario Cabinet Minister, but it speaks universally to people who hold political office anywhere and are persons of faith. John Malloy tackles the issue of religion in the public square and how Catholics, using the many facets of Catholic Social Teaching can reframe the debate to make concrete, positive contributions to the common good. A strong point he argues is that Catholics as well as Catholic politicians need to enter the public square not girded for battle, but ready to learn and appreciate the “sublime human dignity of every person.” The book is beautifully written and it is evident that he believes as he says, that Catholicism is not just a set of rules but a way to engage the world based on the love of Jesus.

Honorable Mention

Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter, Kelly Brown Douglas, Orbis Books

Faith, Nationalism, and the Future of Liberal Democracy, David M. Elcott with C. Colt Anderson, Tobias Cremer, Volker Haarmann, University of Notre Dame Press

B26: Immigration

First Place

Immigration and Faith: Cultural, Biblical, and Theological Narratives, Brett C. Hoover, Paulist Press

This is a very good study of the Immigration issue from a religious perspective. This book will help you form your own thoughts on Immigration from a faith-based life and hopefully, like the book, arrive at a Theology of Immigrations and Migration.

Second Place

Defiance in Exile: Syrian Refugee Women in Jordan, Waed Athamneh with Muhammad Masud, University of Notre Dame Press

This book is focused on the Syrian refugees in camps in Jordan. It is written around interviews with the refugees. An interesting study in oppression and sadness!

B28a: Catholic Novels: Inspirational

First Place

A Freedom Such as Heaven Intended, Amanda Lauer, Full Quiver Publishing

Important and well told story of Alice (“Rose”) Williams, an intelligent, genteel, and Godly woman who is a “chosen” slave fathered by the white slave master/head of household and her mother, an African woman of royal descent. A very informative read that underscores and informs an overall romantic story with the important information about this time period, in general, and the particularly sinister nature of certain individuals’ assumption that it is in keeping with God’s will to “own” other human beings. Also an engaging and entertaining read, tense in presentation of some of the potential dangers encountered by slaves attempting emancipation via the Underground Railroad, also charming insofar as depicting an unlikely pairing of two young adults with the same Faith but very different racial and socio-economic backgrounds. There is a romance designed by God, and it is a wonderful literary device for demonstrating the power in partnership in faith in God and doing what is right in God’s eyes—no matter “society” or, as in this case of Civil War time, law might dictate.

Second Place

Masaru, Michael Thomas Cibenko, Arx Publishing

A scholarly and creatively told story of a young boy in mid 16th century Japan who chooses to pursue the path of “Iesu” or “Jesus” toward Christianity once his father has decided to leave

Buddhism and become a Kirishitan (“follower of Christ”). Embedded in the story is the telling of St. Paul Miki and his and his companions who were crucified on Nishizaka Hill in 1597. Taking the likeness of martyr Shiro Amakusa — the Catholic samurai — as a model for his main character, the author weaves the intrigue of the shogun tradition, the life and work of the Spanish and Portugese Jesuits at that time, the sweeping and dramatic directives of various dictators opposed to Christianity, and mentions of the facets of Christianity, itself, that seem like petals from the rose of faith. Christianity was banned in Japan for nearly 250 years. During that time, however, “hidden Christians” had taken it upon themselves, even without priests, baptized and otherwise carried on the faith — something Pope Pius IX declared as a miracle. This story is both intriguing and lovely from beginning to end, with enough conquests to engage even the pickiest of Young Readers. Along with its setting of beautiful cultural, geographic, and language details, this story is also enhanced by explanatory maps, a Glossary of Terms, and design embellishments that make the production not only a great “read” but also a very attractive presentation book a la “Lord of the Rings.”

Third Place

In Pieces, Rhonda Ortiz, Chrism Press, a division of WhiteFire Publishing

“Historical facts meeting fictional fancy,” as the author describes this novel, part 1 in a series, *In Pieces* tells the story of dress designer Molly Chase and merchant sailor Josiah Robb’s seemingly unrequited love held as a brother & sister relationship since childhood. When Molly’s father commits suicide, she is left with her father’s failing business, a home she cannot afford, and no resources for a single woman of her time to make a way for herself. She is taken in by the Robb family, once helped by her own father, and this is where some of the tension — and great humor — begins as they go about trying to effect a living space share arrangement that is “suitable” for a single lady in the society’s eye of the time. Using US President George Washington’s Fund for Foreign Intercourse (a black budget program secretly funded in order to conduct intelligence operations as a backdrop, this novel is complete with even the creation of a fictional spy ring tied to the Boston Custom House — along with the romantic tales of the sea that swashbuckling yet Bible reading Josiah brings to the story, and the author offers plenty of historical spy intrigue as well as a (spoiler alert) satisfying romance.

Honorable Mention

Altar of the Cross, Cece Whittaker, Easton One Publishing

Outside the Gates, W. C. Hackett, Angelico Press

B28b: Catholic Novels: Escapism

First Place

The Cardinal's Assassin, Donald Cozzens, ACTA Publications

This novel is the third in a series by Fr. Cozzens. I point this out because even before I completed this novel, I began a search to order the first two — it's that compelling! This is a heady cocktail of a read, mixing Italian Mafia, the machinations of corrupt clergy, juicy scandal, cross continental intrigue, with unexpected twist and turns. Fr. Cozzens's 'insider' perspective of the Church combined with his ability to draw interesting characters will keep you riveted.

Second Place

Ancient of Genes, Dan Gallagher, StoriesAmazing

A fast paced, thought-provoking page turner. Dan Gallagher proves a master at weaving complex science, politics, and religion into a compelling tale for our times. Not since reading Michael Crichton novels as a young man has this reader been so captivated by science fiction, or so inspired to wrestle with questions of morality and spirituality within the covers of a novel!

Third Place

Brother Wolf, Eleanor Bourg Nicholson, Chrism Press

"So, we stake vampires and rehabilitate werewolves?" This is one of a number of compelling questions that drive the plot of this fascinating Gothic style novel. Who knew that Catholic theology and the wrestling of werewolves could mix so well? Eleanor Bourg Nicholson has created a complex tapestry of the metaphysical and the theological, leaving the reader with both well drawn characters (monks, nuns, werewolves, an appealing heroine — oh my!) and ample occasions to ponder free will, sin, and God's providence.

Honorable Mention

The Light of Caliburn, Jake Frost, self published

The Art of Introductions, Amanda Hamm, Before Someday Publishing

B28c: Catholic Novels: Education

First Place

Where Angels Pass, Ellen Gable, Full Quiver Publishing

This is a timely and well written story, showing the effects of child abuse by a priest, not only on the victim, but also on the victim's family. A worthwhile read!

Second Place

On Rumor's Deadly Tongue, Deanna Rutledge, Stout-Castle Books (self-published)

This book tells a complex tale of the Middle Ages which history buffs will enjoy reading. It is filled with intrigue and exciting chases, escapes and maybe a path to redemption.

Third Place

Eternal Light of the Crypts, Alan Van't Land, Full Quiver Publishing

Those interested in medieval Europe will like this tale of intrigue where a good number of soul searching questions are asked.

B29b: Other Faith based Novels: Escapism

First Place

Kenogaia (A Gnostic Tale), David Bentley Hart, Angelico Press

This intelligent and thoroughly engaging novel will envelope you in a spiritual universe of unparalleled imagination. Author Hart draws from and expands creatively upon an ancient Gnostic tale, *The Hymn of the Pearl*, to create an epic narrative of over 420 pages. (You'll enjoy recognizing other influences, among them the Bible, Lewis Carroll, and Antoine De Saint-Exupery). You'll want to savor each page for its exquisite writing, well developed characters, compelling theology, and driving narrative. There is much food for contemplation within these pages. A profound and engaging work of art.

Second Place

Ancient of Genes, Dan Gallagher, StoriesAmazing

Gallagher's vivid language and ability to lead the reader through complex ideas clearly creates a world you will not want to leave and will find difficult to put down.

B32: Best Book- E Edition Only

First Place

Global Catholic Education Report 2021: Education Pluralism, Learning Poverty, and the Right to Education, Quentin Wodon, Self-published by the author under the Global Catholic Education Project

This report is very thorough and well-written. It has lots of visual aids with graphs and figures to show data, not to mention research citations to back up the information. This is a masterpiece of Catholic academic reporting.

Second Place

Easter Mealtime Prayers for the Family, Leo-Martin Angelo R. Ocampo, Liturgical Press

This book contains well-organized and formatted prayers for Easter. It is easy to follow and the descriptive language helps readers engage with the instruction.

B34a Prayer: Books About Prayer

First Place

Mysteries of the Lord's Prayer: Mysteries from the Early Church, Rev. John Gavin, SJ, Catholic University of America Press

Fr. Gavin's fundamental questions (aporia) and reflections, draw on the ancient wisdom of praying Scripture through the Fathers of the Church in lieu of more contemporary theologians. The author states: 'No one who takes the writings of the Fathers of the Church to heart can recite the Lord's Prayer without reflecting upon the grave responsibilities that accompany the wondrous gift of adoption....The Fathers also highlight the spiritual journey toward the heavens-to a fuller union with God-as the Christian goal.' These and other inspirational teachings of the Fathers will make the Our Father more meaningful for today's Christians and much more awed for the gift of Father, Son, and Spirit. This is truly a book that is both accessible and extraordinary for the average person to pray their childhood prayer like never before.

Second Place

Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep, Tish Harrison Warren, InterVarsity Press

Tish Harrison Warren is a woman of deep spiritual thoughts and as her writing awards attest an author who can combine beautiful prose, theological thoughts, and painful honesty as she plumbs the depths of life, love, loss, and hope. Her prologue gives a hint of what is to come: “Grace is the first and last word of the Christian life, and all of us are desperately in need of mercy and deeply loved.” I hope you may be as hooked on this book as I was. I consider myself a morning person and my prayer and worship better happen early or it may not happen at all. Through Rev. Warren’s series of hard times including re-locating and several miscarriages, the author found that praying Compline (the last prayer office of the day) was what “kept us alive.” Combining quotes from theologians, philosophers, and very often the Psalms with her own prayers amid her doubts, grief, and pain often brought me to weave them with my own.

Third Place

Centering Prayer: A Contemplative Path to Virtuous Living, P. Gregg Blanton, Orbis Books

I have been a Centering Prayer “wanna-be” for many years so Gregg Blanton’s book and especially the subtitle: “A Contemplative Path to Virtuous Living,” intrigued me. His psychology background and counseling experience dotted the I’s for those who might be put off by a strictly spiritual approach. By linking the practice of Centering Prayer and Scripture with 15 virtues, e.g., compassion, justice, hope, diligence, etc., I believe he has made a truly helpful connection for skeptics like myself. Keeping in tune with Thomas Keating’s teachings on Centering Prayer is helpful for those who are new to the practice and bringing in the Virtues that can be a fruit of the prayer will be of interest to those who are more advanced.

Honorable Mention

How to Pray: A Practical Guide to the Spiritual Life, David Torkington, OSV

Prayer, Biblical Wisdom for Seeking God, Michelle Francl-Donnay, Liturgical Press

B34b: Prayer: Collections of Prayers

First Place

A Deacon Prays: Prayers and Devotions for Liturgy and Life, Deacon Greg Kandra, Ave Maria Press

In his introduction Kandra sets the tone for the book, writing “The diaconate, by its very nature, is a ministry of doing. Deacons are rarely still.” If they do take time to be still, they will find this book full of simple, grounded prayers. Several categories target deacons, such as “Prayers for Ministry” and “Diaconal Prayers.” Other categories, for example “Prayers for Daily Life” or “Seasonal Prayers,” will strike a chord with any person looking to enrich their lives with short insightful reflections.

Second Place

You Have Called Me by My Name, Joe Tetlow, SJ, Loyola Press

The title of this collection fits perfectly the tone and subject matter of these prayers to Jesus, an approachable friend. There are prayers of doubt, unworthiness, missteps and grief. Tetlow gives glimpses into his own emotional journey, as in these lines from “Together We Weep”: “Like you before your Lazarus interred,/I stand and weep, confronted by a void/where loving souls had been.” These brief prayers are lyrical and uplifting. It’s a book to keep close at hand for a daily read.

Third Place

The Ave Prayer Book for Catholic Mothers, Heidi Hess Saxton, editor, Ave Maria Press

This prayer book includes contributions from 80 mothers at various stages in their lives. Each writer shares a favorite prayer—original, such as “Prayer of Hope for My Sons,” or traditional, such as “The Magnificat” — and a personal story or reflection, many of them inspiring and touching.

Honorable Mention

Called by Name: 365 Daily Devotions for Catholic Women, Edited by Kelly M. Wahlquist, Alyssa Bormes, and Allison Gingras, Ave Maria Press

From the Depths of the Heart: Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek, Abraham Terian, Liturgical Press

B35: Ecumenism or Interfaith Relations

First Place

The Eucharistic Sacrifice, Sergius Bulgakov, University of Notre Dame Press

In this book, Sergius Bulgakov offers an original theological vision for the Eucharistic sacrifice. Bulgakov argues that the Eucharistic sacrifice is not another sacrifice offered in addition to Golgotha but an eschatological manifestation of the self-giving love of God in the Trinity. In the incarnation, the Lord took on not only a body, but all of creation. In the Eucharist, all assembled, the entire Church are united to Him and all the Saints in glory. We the gathered can offer the sacrifice of Christ by co-offering ourselves and all we have. To join in this offering, we need to be co-crucified so as to be co-resurrected with him. This theological treatise will appeal to theologians as well as students of theology and ecumenism.

Second Place

Lead, Kindly Light: Gandhi on Christianity, Robert Ellsberg, Editor, Orbis Books

Robert Ellsberg's interest in Gandhi stems not only from his teaching on nonviolence but his appreciation of Jesus as a practitioner of nonviolence. Gandhi did not claim to be a Christian, but the example of Jesus' suffering was the root of his faith in nonviolence. Gandhi believed the true message of Jesus was in the Sermon on the Mount, which described the law of love and absolute rejection of all forms of violence. For Gandhi, Jesus remained an object of reverence and devotion, uncompromised by the failures and betrayals of his followers, to whom Gandhi hoped to restore the "dangerous memory" of the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' radical commandment of love. In interreligious dialogue, Gandhi reminds us that encounters with another person may be an encounter with a person with a different point of view of the truth. The goal is to deepen dialogue for understanding which leads to mutual conversion. Gandhi calls all to learn the full meaning of the vicarious existence of Jesus and apply it to our worship, belief, missionary activity, and suffering.

Third Place

Islamophobia: What Christians Should Know (and Do) about Anti-Muslim Discrimination, Jordan Denari Duffner, Orbis Books

Jordan Denari Duffner writing for a Christian audience addresses the problem of Islamophobia in Christian contexts and offers ways to address it through the lens of our faith. For clarification, the author gives a distinct definition of Islamophobia and the need for the term to address anti-Muslim prejudice and discrimination. Duffner specifically addresses the problem of Islamophobia that Christian communities have contributed to this discrimination. The author addresses the long history of prejudice that exists in Christian communities to discover the roots of this prejudice. Viewing Islamophobia through the Christian faith offers opportunities to respond to this prejudice through the study of the Bible, interreligious dialogue, Catholic social teaching, the Documents of Vatican II, and the teachings of Pope Francis. Duffner references anti-Muslim discrimination that exists in the preaching of Church leaders. Duffner suggests we move forward by naming our sin, asking forgiveness, and living our legacy of being a Christian community built on the Love of God and Love of Neighbor without exclusion.

Honorable Mention

Eyes of Compassion: Learning from Thich Nhat Hanh, Jim Forest, Orbis Books

B36: Pilgrimages/ Catholic Travel

First Place

Monuments, Marvels, and Miracles: A Traveler's Guide to Catholic America, Marion Amberg, OSV

Beautifully designed and concise but hefty guide to sites in the US worthy of intentional vacation trips and pilgrimage. Organized by region, then state by state, this guide offers readers a handy reference — generous in full color images — for their next potential special domestic travel experience.

Second Place

Pilgrimage: In Search of the REAL California Missions, Christian Clifford, Self published

This nicely designed account of the author's 800-mile foot journey on the California Missions Trail includes renditions of period maps, photographs of key people involved in the establishment and operations of the missions, and the author's reflections. Each chapter also includes information about the experiences of the founding friars and the Native peoples as well as the author-pilgrim's experience.

Third Place

Two Days in Panama: Stories of Sacred Awakening, Armando Machado, Publish, Inc.

This exciting book follows the award-winning New York author journalist's unforgettable trip back to his country of birth, Panama, during World Youth Day Panama 2019. The book is comprised of his interviews with pilgrims from around the world, photographs from this historic event (including photos of Pope Francis), and reflections.

B37: Sacraments

First Place

Bread from Heaven: An Introduction to the Theology of the Eucharist, Bernhard Blankenhorn, OP, Catholic University of America Press

Although the sacrament of Eucharist probably receives more attention than the other sacraments, in its history, theology and praxis, this work offers a thorough introduction to eucharistic theology that is first rate. It will appeal to the teacher, the student and the scholar; in fact, it is equally accessible for anyone who wants to understand the Eucharist. From the

biblical foundations to contemporary issues, this volume offers sound research and extensive footnotes.

B38: Pope Francis

First Place

The Gospel of Luke: A Spiritual and Pastoral Reading, Pope Francis, Orbis Books

This is a very impressive work! The author took all the writings of Pope Francis that applied to the Gospel of Saint Luke and created a Commentary on the Gospel of Luke. A beautiful reflective approach to the Gospel of St. Luke and great resource for preachers of the Gospel.

Second Place

The Pope and the Pandemic: Lessons in Leadership in a Time of Crisis, Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, Orbis Books

The Jesuit religious order is very proud that one of their own is now Pope Francis. This book, written by a Jesuit, offers reflections on the Popes style of leadership over the years and especially in the current time of the Pandemic. This is a book that would be helpful to anyone in a leadership position.

Third Place

God's Diplomats: Pope Francis, Vatican Diplomacy, and America's Armageddon, Victor Gaetan, Rowman & Littlefield

How is our Pope carrying our wounded humanity through the difficulties of the Vatican, America, and the World? This book is a study with over 100 pages of references. If you are a student of the Pope and wish to study him in depth, then this is the book for you!

Honorable Mention

Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs. the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis, Massimo Borghesi, Liturgical Press

Two Days in Panama: Stories of Sacred Awakening, Armando Machado, Publish, Inc.

B39: Newly Canonized Saints

First Place

Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood, Michael R. Heinlein, OSV

Though small, this book is surprisingly detailed. The author provides well-researched history of potential saints with great descriptive writing and a creative layout. Each chapter includes sections on their history and accomplishments, a prayer for beautification, and an additional review of their qualifications for sainthood. This piece is eloquently written, and the author's passion for the subject of Black Catholic saints is apparent in the material.

Second Place

On Pilgrimage: The Sixties, Dorothy Day (Robert Ellsberg, editor), Orbis Books

This book is extremely thorough, with detailed citations and explanations of Dorothy Day's history and reasons for her candidacy for sainthood. It compiles Dorothy's writings and supplements them with a descriptive introduction and accompanying footnotes. The writing is academically structured so it's very informative, while showing the creative perspective of the author on Dorothy's life and values.

Third Place

Who Was Saint Junipero Serra?, Christian Clifford, Self published

This book was very informative with cute illustrations. It was written in first-person narrative, so that it sounds like an autobiography, and follows the lives of the saint and those whom he influenced. The language was easy to understand. I enjoyed this simple explanatory book that detailed the history and relationships of this canonized saint.

Honorable Mention

Saints Celebrated and Unsung: The Universal Call to Holiness, James J. Bacik, Orbis Books

B40: Poetry

First Place

Dawn of this Hunger, Sally Read, Angelico Press

The poetry is lyrical, at times mystical, and provides readers a prayerful, woman-centered lens to re-examine stories they are already familiar with. For example, in "Annunciation," we see 13-

year-old Mary stunned by the message of her angelic visitor. On the next page, we glimpse another perspective in "What the Sparrow Saw"

Second Place

What Nature Knows, Chrissa Ventrelle, Self published

These poems and meditations are rooted in Ms. Ventrelle's keen observations of such wonders as moss, beech trees and honey. The second half of the volume, "Let's...", invites the reader to commit to "togetherness," for example in these lines: "Let's be the steady flame that soothes with the soft glow unwavering in the darkest night."

B41: Backlist Beauty

First Place

The Life of Jesus Christ: Part Two; Volume 1, Chapters 1-57, Translated by Milton T. Walsh, Liturgical Press

The content speaks for itself. The publisher is very good at laying out this classic reprints, and the book is easy on the eyes. An easy winner.

Second Place

It's Your Camino: One Couple's 500-Mile Pilgrimage Across Spain, Kenneth R. Strange Jr., Self Published

This is an informative account of a moving spiritual journey. If you are going to do the pilgrimage, it will be a valuable aid. However, the author deserves much credit for the good prose and all the work associated with a self-published title. A nice, enjoyable introduction to the Camino.

Third Place

Give Up Worry for Lent!: 40 Days to Finding Peace in Christ, Gary Zimak, Ave Maria Press

This is simple, well-meaning Catholic self-help book that could certainly help a searching reader, though anyone looking for depth and "more-than" will likely be disappointed. If the reader is a beginner in the spiritual life, and is plagued by worries, the book could certainly help. The author's use of Scripture is judicious and orthodox.

B42: Best Front Cover Artwork

First Place

Adore: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation, Valerie Delgado, artist; Brianna Dombo, designer, Ave Maria Press

This is a beautiful, joyful image of Mary and Joseph adoring Our Lord in the womb. The artwork is relatable and simple with the focal point on Jesus.

Second Place

Finding Sanctuary, Brianna Dombo, designer, Ave Maria Press

The cover image is peaceful and light, with soft colors. The font and artwork gently invite the reader inside the pages.

Third Place

Tales Told on the Road to Emmaus: Reflections on the Word of God for Contemporary Christians, John E. Kerrigan, Landon McCord Moore III, Sean D. Sammon, FMS, Self published

The cover art draws the eye to the road and to God. It is a reflective aid to prayer with the book.

B43: Memoir

First Place

Finding Sanctuary, Jennifer Hubbard, Ave Maria Press

Profoundly moving as well as spiritually encouraging story of a mother's loss as result of the 2014 Sandy Hook shooting. In now way "treacly," this memoir is real, honest, raw, and with wonderful insights about how our faith can not only console during times of adversity but also inform. The author shares in detail about her grief and how, in reaching for answers in the Bible and, ultimately, talking with our Heavenly Father, she began — even enduring subsequent losses of husband, father, and grandmother — trusting that God does have a purpose, trusting that God does see us, trusting that God knows our hearts and provides — even when everything in our world would seem — or want us to feel — otherwise.

Second Place

Medjugorje- subtitle. My Lifelong Journey With Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Penny Abbruzzese, En Route Books and Media, LLC

Beautifully told story of faith in Our Blessed Mother in which the author shares, intimately, how she has received the grace to communicate with Mary and also has developed an understanding of miracles. After experiencing the painful loss of her younger brother, the author considers pilgrimage to Medjugorje — and a focus on helping the sick, disabled, and the lost. She, eventually, becomes a pilgrimage leader, bringing pilgrims to other holy places as well. This book was written over time and covers some 36 years of events well worth knowing.

Third Place

Awakening at Lourdes: How an Unanswered Prayer Healed Our Family and Restored Our Faith, Christy Wilkens, Ave Maria Press

Wonderful, amazingly honest but also mindful, memoir highlighting how our culture is obsessed with “wellness” and what our response as Catholic believers should be (to life!) AND also how God often shows up for us in ways that differ from that for which we might be praying... Told with the backdrop of Lourdes, with the expectations of the miracles of pilgrimage, the author’s story also reminds the reader — in the midst of struggle — of the sweetness of surrender to our loving God’s care designed especially for each of us.

Honorable Mention

“The Color of the Skin Doesn’t Matter”: A Missioner’s Tale of Faith and Politics in Africa, Sr. Janice McLaughlin, MM, Orbis Books

B44: Healing & Self Help

First Place

St. Dymphna’s Playbook, Tommy Tighe, Ave Maria Press

Depression, anxiety, grief in bold black letters on the back of the book are pretty sobering. Then there are other “mental health concerns.” Let me name some: fear, hopelessness, confusion, isolation, WORRY. In 2022 it is estimated that over 80% of people having experienced the trauma of COVID-19 and its appendages, i.e. omicron, etc. are suffering from “several” physical, financial, and emotional upsets. Prayer and the sacraments are essential, but as suffering saints prove in this book — we need more. St. Dymphna has been one of my “go to” saints since being introduced to her during a down period of my life — nothing as serious as being stalked and murdered by your own severely disturbed father. The author’s use of “Play-book” in the title

says a lot: and it's all good — good in the sense of ending the nonsense of keeping emotional problems a secret; good in the sense of drawing on saints and medical and spiritual professionals who provide balanced and effective treatments for healing and hope. There is much in this readable and prayerfull book to help the reader through these challenging times.

Second Place

Give Up Worry for Good!: 8 Weeks to Hopeful Living and Lasting Peace, Gary Zimak, Ave Maria Press

If my math is right Gary Zimak has come up with at least 56 ways to give up worry. Whether you go this alone or preferably with some fellow-worriers you have a lot to keep you busy, because you don't want to take shortcuts. This is a book that deserves to be "studied, discussed and acted on." Don't get caught up in an 8-week plan — but do give it time to turn your worry, stress, and anxiety into a better way of living. Surrender control to God each and every day and say goodbye to worry!

Third Place

Be Restored: Healing Our Sexual Wounds through Jesus' Merciful Love, Bob Schuchts, Ave Maria Press

Although the topic of sexual wounds is a tough one, Bob Schuchts is up to the challenge. And in today's "upside-down world" so many things that were once "in the closet" are not only out in the open, but as good Christians we need to be in the know. The author, a former marriage and family counselor, and teacher at the John Paul II Healing Center is well prepared to take on the sexual brokenness in our culture and suggest ways to be healed and restored. The sexual wounds that occur in families, church, and professional circles have deep and longtime effects. Without prayer and healing, many of those abused suffer a lifetime of shame and/or remorse. Thank God for the healers, like Bob Schuchts, who help to open the way for Jesus' merciful love to restore and renew those who seek His healing love. "Be Restored" can be the first step to freedom and hope for the abused and their abusers.

Honorable Mention

Every Deep-Drawn Breath, Wes Ely, MD, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Pilgrimage: A Doctor's Healing Journey, Donna Chacko, MD, Luminare Press

B45: Best New Religious Book Series

First Place

Untroubled by the Unknown: Trusting God in Every Moment, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Ascension (Ascension Press)

This series includes a collection of devotionals to help everyday Catholics increase their faith and learn about God's ways. The sections include scriptures, personal stories, and interactive entries to engage readers. The layout and formatting is interesting and unique, with larger font so it can be read by a variety of ages. The cover designs are fun and professional-looking. I would pick these up in a bookstore because they are easy to flip through and the lessons are broken up so it doesn't seem like a daunting amount of text. These books would be great to fit in your luggage for stress-free travel reading.

Second Place

Freeing Tanner Rose (Faith & Kung Fu series, Book 1), T. M. Gaouette, self-published

This series is great for teens and young adults. It has romance, action, and life lessons about choosing faith over fame. It combines fiction with real-world scenarios to create a compelling story that can be applied to daily life. The descriptive writing and quippy dialogue keep readers engaged.

Third Place

Ten Ways to Pray: A Catholic Guide for Drawing Closer to God, Carolyn Pirtle, Ave Maria Press

Each chapter offers sections of deep explanation into each type of prayer, its origin, its meaning, and the circumstances in which to pray that prayer. The books in the series all follow the same format, which lends to the cohesion of the teachings. It marries doctrine with practice for the average lay person who seeks a detailed theological guide to growth in their faith.

Honorable Mention

Teeny Tiny Theology: Christology, Michael R. Heinlein Illustrated by Frank Fraser, OSV Kids

The Way of Peace: Readings for a Harmonious Life ("The Way" series), Michael Leach, Doris Goodnough, and Maria Angelini, editors, Orbis Books

B46: Faith Formation

First Place

What Makes Education Catholic: Spiritual Foundations, Thomas H. Groome, Orbis Books

Spiritually refreshing and intellectually compelling. The foundations of the Catholic understanding of what is essential for learning: a well-grounded educator who understands and effectively passes on a living tradition of excellence.

Second Place

Turn to the Lord: Forming Disciples for Lifelong Conversion, Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Liturgical Press

This book is an attempt to reorientate catechesis toward a more integrative and relational understanding of the practice of the faith. Specifically intended for those who are to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation (candidates, sponsors, parents, and catechists). It is timely, hitting all of the potential intersections between faith and practice.

Third Place

Companion to the Directory for Catechesis, Petroc Willey and Joseph White, OSV

Successfully achieves what it is intended to do: a companion for the Directory for Catechesis. It provides some of the necessary perspective, rooted in lived experience, of what it means to engage in catechetical ministry.

B47: Anthology

First Place

Black Catholic Studies Reader: History and Theology, David J. Endres, Catholic University of America Press

A very good collection of essays on an important and previously neglected subject. Interesting even to persons not normally drawn to the subject. Readable, and well laid out. Highly recommended.

Second Place

Tales Told on the Road to Emmaus: Reflections on the Word of God for Contemporary Christians, John E. Kerrigan, Landon McCord Moore III, Sean D. Sammon, FMS, Self published

Catholic light with some substance. A good book for beginners in the spiritual life, but not enough for those seeking “more than.

Third Place

One Heart With Courage: Essays and Stories, Teri Rizvi, Braugher Books

Reflects our personality-dominated, celebrity culture in the sense that there is not enough profundity here to make it stand out. Still, readable and will touch many people.

B48: English Translation Edition

First Place

The Pope: His Mission and His Task, Card. Gerhard L. Müller, Catholic University of America Press

A profoundly engaging and timely text. Author addresses a topic that is evolving, namely that of the role of the papacy by contextualizing it within its history. Compelling and thorough.

Honorable Mention

Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs. the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis, Massimo Borghesi, Liturgical Press

B49: Jesus – Christology

First Place

What Christ Suffered: A Doctor’s Journey Through the Passion, Thomas W. McGovern MD, OSV

Appreciated author’s referencing of papal encyclical and scripture...Profound reflection on the part of the medical side of life on suffering.

Second Place

The Diary of Jesus Christ, Bill Cain, SJ, Orbis Books

Great “autobiography,”...perhaps, a “letter to Jesus” might have been a better approach.

B50: Future Church

First Place

The Pandemic and the People of God: Cultural Impacts and Pastoral Responses, Gerald A. Arbuckle, SM, Orbis Books

I understand the timely decision to connect this wonderful book to a current concern, but it seems to me that this book is about much more than “the pandemic.” It would be unfortunate if it was dismissed because of the title. Arbuckle provides a new vision for understanding how to make the “Kingdom of God,” present and alive for new generations. It is a book brimming with hope and the confidence of the creative spirits of the human person who desires to live in solidarity, with compassion, and a commitment to justice.

Second Place

Global Catholicism: Profiles and Polarities, Thomas P. Rausch, SJ, Orbis Books

A very helpful text for those who desire to understand the “players and the influencers” of global Catholicism. Effectively widens the perspective of the reader to see beyond their personal experience and to acknowledge the bigger picture. After reading this text it would seem to be impossible to read anything else without at least wondering “where all the connections and the connectors” might be.

Third Place

Looking to the Laity: Reflections on Where the Church Can Go from Here, Edited by Anne Louise Mahoney, Novalis Publishing

A hopeful little text that brings together a variety of voices who offer their perspective on a specific subject. Never gets bog down to much with theory but is much more concerned with the lived reality and practice of the People of God in action/contemplation/reflection.

B51: Self Published Books

First Place

Pilgrimage: A Doctor’s Healing Journey, Donna Chacko, MD, Luminare Press

This is a touching autobiography involving the exploration of a journey back to faith. The writing is descriptive and well-edited. Each chapter is laid out in sections for easily digestible life lessons. I found it inspirational and informative. The story is wrought with emotion and teaches us to reflect on our past struggles from a perspective of faith, knowing that God was always in control.

Second Place

Victor Survives Being a Kid, Heidi Vertrees, newSong Press / self published

This book is fun and unique! It is written from the perspective of a kid, so it has a creative writer's voice. Illustrations throughout the book look like they were doodled by a kid in a school notebook, and the font is casual, almost like handwriting. This gives it an aesthetic that kids can relate to and enjoy. The story is heartwarming and inspirational.

Third Place

Mary's Treasure: The Life of Christ Through a Mother's Eyes, Erin Greneaux, Self Published

This piece includes individual cards with gorgeous artwork and exquisite writing. It has creatively structured sections for each daily devotion. It comes with a display stand for the cards so they can be viewed daily. This is a unique book for all ages to enjoy.

Honorable Mention

What Nature Knows, Chrissa Ventrelle, Self published

[B52: Grief and Bereavement](#)

First Place

Every Deep-Drawn Breath, Wes Ely, MD, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Second Place

An Empty Space in Your Heart: Reflections on the Death of a Sibling or Best Friend, Helen Reichert Lambin, ACTA Publications

Author Helen Reichert Lambin helps readers grapple with the many ways the loss of a sibling or friend can both haunt and heal us. The book unfolds through brief meditations, allowing time and space to ponder the wisdom therein as needed. Wading through too much information in the face of grief is not helpful. Knowing this, Lambin draws us in with story, lived experiences, anecdotes, poetry and scripture. As an octegenarian Lambin brings a treasury of living, loss, laughter, and faith to this lovely collection. An excellent gift for someone experiencing loss.

Third Place

Seriously, God?: Making Sense of Life Not Making Sense, Michael White, Tom Corcoran, Ave Maria Press

Tackling one of life's most difficult questions is a brave thing to do. Authors Fr. White & Mr. Corcoran are up to the task in this very readable volume. There is not a person alive who at one time or other doesn't struggle with the big question: why does a good, loving and all-powerful God allows suffering, pain, chaos in our lives, in our world. This age-old question and related ones are revisited in these pages in a straightforward and pastorally sensitive manner. I was especially struck by how accessible this would be for younger readers from teen years upward — the language is so clear, the stories so real.

B54: Mysticism

First Place

Diving for Pearls: Exploring the Depths of Prayer with Isaac the Syrian, Andrew D. Mayes, Liturgical Press

A practical guide to prayer, written by an Episcopal priest who is also Franciscan, based upon the teachings of Isaac the Syrian. Includes handy Biblical and retreat resources for use with small groups.

Second Place

Saint Mary of Egypt: A Modern Verse Life and Interpretation, Bonnie B. Thurston, Liturgical Press

Fascinating book undertaking the topic of Mary of Egypt, venerated in Orthodox Church as “the model of repentance.” The author tells a history in both academic study and modern verse.

Third Place

Putting on the Mind of Christ: Contemplative Prayer and Holistic Unity, James E. Woods, Orbis Books

Wonderful resource on contemplative prayer and holistic unity which aims to help seekers attain the Beatific Vision. Includes helpful glossary of terms and a generous bibliography.

Honorable Mention

The God Who Gave You Birth: A Spirituality of Kenosis, Cyprian Consiglio, Liturgical Press

Little Lessons from the Mystics, Bob Burnham, Loyola Press