



The Book Reviewer

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY

FEB 2015

WELCOME TO YOUR PARISH LIBRARY!

- Located through the double glass doors in the main vestibule of the church
- The library is open for all masses
- Find detailed check-out instructions posted near the marble shelf
- Materials may be borrowed for up to three weeks
- Donations of books, DVDs, & CDs that reflect Catholic Christian faith and principles are greatly appreciated. Just drop them off in the library!

To make space for new books, some categories have been shifted to different bookshelves. Take a look around to familiarize yourself with the new arrangement!

New acquisitions include:

Listening to God's Word by Alice Camille (Scripture)
Opus Dei by John L. Allen, Jr. (Church History)
Unplanned by Abby Johnson (Grief, Loss, Healing)
Armchair Mystic by Mark E. Thibodeaux (Mysticism)
Be a Man! By Larry Richards (Marriage and Family)
On Being Catholic by Thomas Howard (Catholicism/Catechetics)
Will I See My Dog in Heaven? by Jack Wintz (Spirituality)
Jesus by Anselm Grun (Children's)

Partaking of God by Denis Edwards (Theology)

Denis Edwards, an Australian priest, has written a brilliant book based on a theology of Trinity, evolution, and ecology. He develops a triptych of creation, incarnation, and resurrection, using the writings of St. Athanasius, a fourth century theologian who participated in the Council of Nicea (325 A.D.), St. Paul, and Karl Rahner.

Scripture is often used to defend questionable or false ideas, as in the case of Genesis being quoted to justify the exploitation of creation by humans. But step by step, and very carefully, Fr.

Edwards presents a universe, created out of nothing, filled and guided by the Holy Spirit, and becoming incarnated in Christ, in which we are stewards and caretakers of our beautiful blue, green, and white planet, partners with all other creatures in an evolution toward fulfillment in Christ.

"From a scientific perspective it is clear that something extraordinary happens with the emergence of the human; the human brain is the most complex thing we know in the universe. From an ethical perspective it is funda-

mental to require humans to take responsibility for the damage they have done to the earth and to other creatures, and to begin to act for its healing. From a theological perspective, it is clear that Christianity's commitment to the incarnation involves a unique view of the human vocation, even if it also demands a clear-eyed view of human sin."

We must not gloat over the command to take dominion and to subdue the earth; rather, to adopt a vision of God's love and care for all creatures.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno



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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:

Soul Mates

Surprised by Joy

A History of God

DVDs:

*The Miracles of
Jesus*

*The Greatest
Story Ever Told*

J.B. by Archibald MacLeish (Scripture)

Based on the idea that “God is unthinkable if man is innocent,” this play reworks the Book of Job for modern readers. The problem of pain, or evil, is beautifully dramatized and answered in much the same way as Jesus and St. Paul answered—God is love.

Job’s comforters, who fail to comfort, are sure that Job cannot be innocent, else how could they contin-

ue to believe in God? Their self-righteous and self-centered speeches highlight the failures of all traditional answers to Job’s questions.

At the end of the play, Sarah, J.B.’s wife enters with a sprig of forsythia, just coming into spring bloom, with all of its tender and vulnerable green leaves and says:

“*Blow on the coals of the heart.*”

The candles have gone out on the altars

The lights have gone out in the sky.

Blow on the coals of the heart,

And we’ll see by and by...”

Both religion and science have failed to answer, but Jesus and Sara have the same answer: let us love one another, and we’ll see by and by.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno

Teachable Moments by Marybeth Hicks (Marriage and Family)

Have you heard the saying, “You may be the only Bible that someone ever reads”? Marybeth Hicks has taken that admonition to heart in her book, encouraging parents to use our “everyday encounters with media and culture to instill conscience, character, and faith.”

In the world of today, developing a moral compass is not as easy as when, for better or for worse, society generally agreed on acceptable norms for behavior. Our Church teaches that in reaching conclusions, we must rely on a “well-developed conscience,” but what kinds of ideas and role-models are molding our children’s consciences as they watch music videos, hear the news, see the latest movies, and explore Instagram and Snapchat?

Hicks has been immersed in this question for years as a columnist and commentator on culture and media, and as the mother of four children, so she understands very well the challenges of raising kids with moral integrity.

While many parents spend time, energy, and money in an effort to raise *well-rounded* children through education, sports, musical training, etc.), Hicks is adamant that instilling the values and virtues that build *character* is the most influential responsibility of parenthood, for well-formed character prepares a child to be strong and persevere in the face of anything throughout life.

Intentional parenting, in which moms and dads are continually open to natural opportunities to convey

their values, morality, and religious perspective is the goal. Only parents are in a position to offer consistent, daily messaging that can stand up against the powerful forces of negative media influence.

Because technology is so central to “Generation Media’s” experience of life, the author encourages us to help them master it instead of allowing it to be their master. She offers numerous specific examples of teachable moments related to money, friends, school, sports, and family.

There is no escaping the influences of media, but Hicks helps us to be clear that the development of our children’s character is our central purpose as their primary and most impactful teachers.

Reviewed by Susan Triplett