



## WELCOME TO YOUR PARISH LIBRARY!

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- The library is open for all masses.
- Find detailed check-out instructions posted on the wall.
- Materials may be borrowed for three weeks
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# The Book Reviewer

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY AUGUST 2008

## **Into the Silent Land** by Martin Laird, O.S.A. (Prayer)

The author of this small gem of a book calls it a guide to the practice of Christian contemplation, which indeed it is.

The first door into the silent land, where we are in the presence of God, is to be able to sit still for an extended period, twenty minutes or half an hour, and to be able to ignore the endless chatter and clutter of our minds by simply return-

ing to a simple and meaningful word of one or two syllables, such as God, love, Jesus, etc.

At the second doorway we are able to move from "being victim of all that is happening to being a witness." This is an awareness which leads us away from suffering, even physical suffering, into healing and peace. "As we make our pilgrim way along the path of

contemplation we will certainly meet what we most resent in ourselves."

Through the third doorway we arrive at an understanding of and a oneness with Christ's passion, and the joy of resurrection.

-Reviewed by Clare Dinno

## **An Irish Country Doctor** by Patrick Taylor (Fiction)

*An Irish Country Doctor* is a delightful book which tells the story of a young doctor, Barry Laverty, who starts his first job in the small Northern Irish town of Ballybucklebo. The novel takes place in the 1960s.

The young and idealistic Dr. Laverty becomes the assistant to Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly. He soon learns that his mentor doesn't really care about the rules of modern medicine, and he proceeds to successfully treat his patients in his

own manner. Dr. O'Reilly is not only involved in the patients' physical health but also with their personal lives. Barry learns much from the senior doctor that he could never have experienced in medical school. There are many amusing incidents, which will delight the reader.

The author, Patrick Taylor, M.D., was born and raised in Bangor County Down in Northern Ireland. The plot of the book is based on journals

which he kept during his early days as a doctor in rural Ireland. In addition, the back of the book has a glossary that translates the "Ulster-Scots dialect," which is generously used throughout the story. There are even a few of the housekeeper's favorite Irish recipes.

-Reviewed by Pat Dalcher

**Did you know** that the Parish Library first opened in 1994, as a way to provide adult Christian formation to parishioners who wanted to expand and deepen their Catholic faith?



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*The Art of Praying*

DVDs:

*Life is Beautiful*

## **The God Experiment** by Russell Stannard (Theology)

The author of this always interesting book is a nuclear physicist, and is able to make the subject of physics both lucid and fascinating. As a scientist and a devout believer in God, he is able to explain how science and religion are compatible; and not only are they compatible, but he concludes that they share the same problems. Proving the existence of God comes up against the same difficulties which physicists face in trying to understand the physical world.

Understanding the Bible, and all of its stories in a spiritual rather than in a literal sense opens up a whole blessed and intriguing world, a world in which time and creation begin together, and man and all of creation evolve. Religious thinking also evolves.

The discussion of how our own sun was formed, and of all of the possible ways that life could come to be is as much fun as watching a tennis match, one in which we are personally involved.

“...it is probably safe to say that all of the requirements appropriate to the development of life are less likely than winning first prize in the State Lottery.”

And that would be just primitive life, the initial primordial slime, or a single virus! Dr. Stannard agrees with Einstein, and with an increasing number of scientists, that the complexities of the universe, and even of our planet, are mathematically impossible to have happened by chance.

-Reviewed by Clare Dinno

## **Things Hidden** by Richard Rohr (Spirituality)

The subtitle of this book by a Franciscan priest, author, and prison chaplain is Scripture as Spirituality. In it Father Rohr proceeds from Genesis through the book of Revelation to explain the connectedness of it all, and its meaning for each one of us.

The climactic point of the whole Bible is, of course, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Father Rohr explains how and where Christianity has strayed from Christ's message, just as Judaism strayed into ideas of God as a wrathful

and punishing judge instead of listening to the very different vision of the prophets. “Healing and forgiveness have not been in the forefront of Christianity, even though these are about the only things that Jesus does.”

Why is it that the religious insiders, Jewish and Christian, always seem to miss God's message? They hear and see, but are blind and deaf and unable to understand; or as Christ called them, “whitened sepulchers.” It is because they are rich and self-satisfied, and anxious to feel superior to the

poor, the weak, the blind and the lame, and marginalized people everywhere.

-Reviewed by Clare Dinno

