



The Book Reviewer

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY

MAY 2012

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!

Lord, I Hurt! The Grace of Forgiveness and the Road To Healing by Anne Costa (Grief & Healing)

Early in Anne Costa's nurturing book, she offers an estimate that "of all health, marital, family, and financial problems...over 90 percent...are rooted in unforgiveness."

If you are dominated by the fear, sadness, and anger that has resulted from *feeling* ignored, rejected, incompetent, or invisible, reading Costa's graceful book is like stepping out of a bleak and hopeless place into sunlight and fresh air.

Costa's hard-won insights

on forgiveness begin and end with the acknowledgment that we are healed by God's grace and mercy. Her guidance is grounded in her Catholic faith and fortified with potent scripture passages and exhortations to pray regularly and seek out the sacraments for their healing power. She offers practical explanations about defense mechanisms, misconceptions about forgiveness, the hard work of true forgiveness, building healthy boundaries, and

understanding fear, anger, and grief.

Along the way, the author relates her own and others' stories of the crippling pain of, and eventual release from, the prison of not being able—or willing—to forgive another person or oneself or even God.

Hope and a path to freedom may be found in Costa's words of wisdom. Her book is truly a work of love in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

Reviewed by Susan Triplett

Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr (Spirituality)

Less wordy and more intense than many other books by Fr. Rohr, this one seems to capture the essence of his thought. The message of "everything belongs" is similar to one of his favorite people, Julian of Norwich, who from her visions, or "showings" derived the message that "all is well, and all

manner of things are well." In this way mystics and visionaries of all faiths have discovered that all contradictions, problems and paradoxes dissolve in the One, the True, and the Beautiful. The hero of all mystics and of all stories breaks through his own ambition and discovers that

it does not matter very much anyway. "He has reconciled all things in himself." Ephesians 2:10

"The crucifixion of the God-man is the worst thing in human history, and the best thing in human history."

How is that for paradox?

Reviewed by Clare Dinno





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

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

Books:

Beyond Sorrow

Darwin's Pious Idea

The Wisdom of the Desert Fathers

DVDs:

Life is Beautiful

The Jewish Roots of Catholicism

New Seeds of Contemplation by Thomas Merton (Spirituality)

New Seeds of Contemplation is an expansion and a reshaping of Merton's popular and earlier work, *Seeds of Contemplation*. It is a favorite of many aspiring spiritual writers, developing as it does valuable ideas and insights about private and communal prayer.

Thomas Merton, from the depths of his own prayer life, produces many profound insights, which he tends to spoil on occasion by a pedagogical attitude toward the reader, whom he can't prevent himself from castigating as those "others" who have

not reached his own level of enlightenment and understanding. For all that, the message comes through loud and clear: we are all meant to be contemplatives; but contemplation is always and only a free gift from God, and the only thing we can do is prepare ourselves to receive it.

"This loving awareness is a thing more real and more valuable by far than anything we can arrive at by our interior senses alone....For the picture of Jesus we may have in our imagination remains nothing but a picture, while the love that

His grace produces in our hearts can bring us into direct contact with Him as He really is."

Further along he writes; "The whole truth of Christianity has been fully revealed; it has not yet been fully understood, or lived." One thinks of Gandhi, who read the New Testament every day, and said that he would have become a Christian, but that he had never met one. We do meet one in Thomas Merton.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno

The Emergent Christ by Ilia Delio (Theology)

This exuberant book explores the meaning of being Catholic in an evolutionary universe. Based upon the writings of Karl Rahner, Teilhard de Chardin, Albert Whitehead and St. Paul, the author weaves a very persuasive case for God in an evolving world—indeed for an evolving God, and emerging Christ. Christ has always been called the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, but here the omega is explained not as an Aristotelian-Thomistic end, but in terms of the Big Bang: and of all creation in a long evolutionary spiral towards fulfillment.

"We can no longer assume that the God of the medieval cosmos is "up there", hovering over us as a divine parent dispensing gifts. God is within us, and is brought to birth in us."

Only this dynamic theology, not static medieval thought, or the rigidity of much current theology and practice can explain Saint Paul's vital and exultant vision of the freedom of creation, when all will become one in Christ.

"It is not for its own sake that creation had frustration imposed upon it, but for the purpose of him who imposed it—with the intention that the whole creation itself might be free from the slavery to corrup-

tion, and be brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." Romans 8: 20-21

We are in transition, not only from a rigid theology, but also from a rigid science, the mechanistic physics of Newton, and the dualistic thought of Descartes. The fluidity of quantum physics, and the grand visions of the astrophysicists, make for really good sense and really good theology, and equally good reading.

"Evolution does not oppose religion; it does not oppose the God of Jesus Christ. Rather it opens up a new window to the God of Jesus Christ."

Reviewed by Clare Dinno