

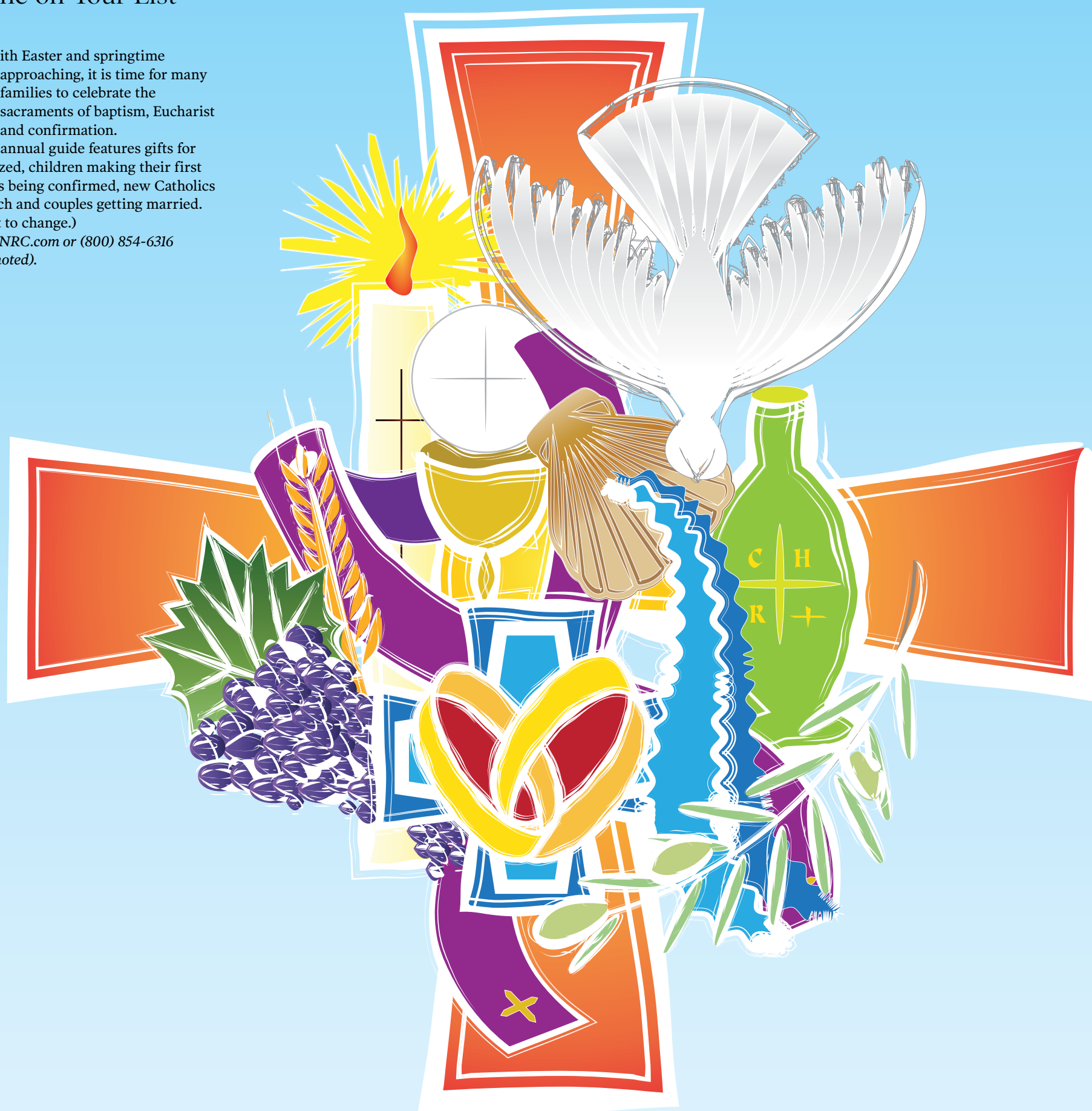
Sacramental Gift Guide 2017

Faith-Inspired Presents for Everyone on Your List

With Easter and springtime approaching, it is time for many families to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist and confirmation.

The Register's annual guide features gifts for babies being baptized, children making their first Communion, teens being confirmed, new Catholics entering the Church and couples getting married. (Prices are subject to change.)

To order: EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316 (unless otherwise noted).



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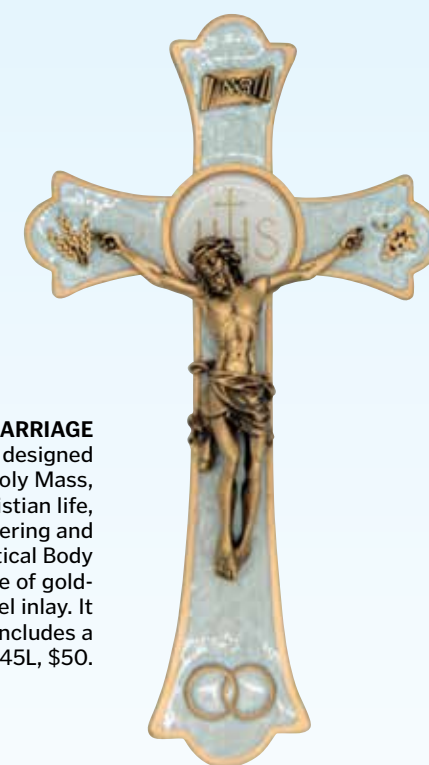
HOLY FAMILY PANEL PLAQUE
This beautiful image of the Holy Family is printed on a three-panel plaque. It is made of medium-density fiberboard with the appearance of genuine wood boards and measures 17 inches high x 13 inches wide x 3/4-inch deep. On the back are two key-hole hooks for hanging. Item: 31292, \$40.



FRAMED ST. THÉRÈSE AND THE CHILD JESUS IMAGE
The original artist of this beautiful image is unknown. Here, St. Thérèse tosses rose petals toward the feet of the Child Jesus as Mary and Joseph look on. Displayed in a gold wood frame with a linen mat, it measures 11 1/4 inches x 9 inches x 1/4 inch. Item: 5817, \$30.



FRAMED MARRIAGE OF MARY AND ST. JOSEPH IMAGE
This beautiful depiction of the wedding ceremony of St. Joseph to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the presence of the rabbi is framed under glass in a decorative gold wood frame and measures 10 inches x 12 inches. Item: 109B1, \$33.



HOLY MASS CRUCIFIX FOR MARRIAGE
This "Catechetical Crucifix" is designed to visually teach about the holy Mass, the priesthood and the Christian life, as well as co-redemptive suffering and co-intercession in the Mystical Body of Christ. This crucifix is made of gold-finished pewter with an enamel inlay. It measures 8 inches tall and includes a hook for hanging. Item: 3245L, \$50.

"The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. By its very nature, it is ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children. Christ the Lord raised marriage between the baptized to the dignity of a sacrament."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1660



NEW CATHOLIC. Pope Francis baptizes a baby in St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 8. L'Osservatore Romano

Pope to Parents: Guard the Faith of Your Children

BY HANNAH BROCKHAUS
CNA/EWTN NEWS

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis baptized 28 babies during Mass in the Sistine Chapel on Jan. 8, reminding parents that by asking for the sacrament of baptism and the gift of faith for their children, they have a responsibility to guard it and to help it deepen.

"The faith is to believe what is the truth: God the Father, who sent his Son, and the Spirit who gives life," he said. "But faith is also to trust in God, and that you must teach them — with your example, with your life."

Pope St. John Paul II started the custom of the Pope baptizing babies in the Sistine Chapel for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The Baptism of the Lord is typically celebrated by the Church on the Sunday following Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, unless in a particular country the Epiphany is celebrated on Jan. 7 or 8, as it was

in the United States this year. In that instance, the Baptism of the Lord is then celebrated the following Monday.

In his homily, Pope said faith "must be lived," a journey that must be walked and which must

'THE CHURCH GIVES THE FAITH TO YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH BAPTISM.' — POPE FRANCIS

give "witness." "And the faith is light: In the baptismal ceremony, you will be given a lighted candle, as in the early days of the Church. And for this reason, baptism, in those days, was called 'illumination,' because faith illuminates the heart, makes things seen with a different light," he said.

During the liturgy, in which the Pope baptized 15 boys and 13 girls, some of the infants started to cry.

Francis then commented on the "concert" which was starting in the chapel, saying that he likes to think that Jesus' first "sermon" was to cry while in the stable in Bethlehem.

He also assured mothers not to worry about nursing their children in church if they need to be fed, saying they should do so "without fear, with total normality," just as Mary likely nursed the Baby Jesus.

In asking for baptism for the babies, "you asked for the faith," Pope Francis reminded the parents. "The Church gives the faith to your children through baptism, and you have the task to make it grow — preserve it — and it becomes a testimony to all the others. This is the meaning of this ceremony."

Concluding, he noted how the task for parents of growing and guarding the faith in their children is a "testimony for all of us: even for us clergy, priests, bishops — everyone."

BAPTISM

"Incorporated into Christ by baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1272



BAPTIZED IN CHRIST PICTURE FRAME

This beautiful white frame is trimmed in pastel pink or blue with the words "Baptized in Christ" on the left, just below the image of a clam shell representing the waters of baptism, with a tiny lamb with a cross at the bottom. On the right is a place for a photograph of the newly baptized baby with the words, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20) just below the picture. The frame is made of a resin-stone mix and has an easel back. It measures 7 1/4 inches high x 7 1/4 inches wide. Girl's, Item: 44999; Boy's, Item: 44998. Each \$18.



BABY BAPTISM GIFT SET

This three-piece set will complement the blessed day. It includes a bib with lace detailing, embroidered cross, socks with gold-stitched cross, 40-inch square blanket with a satin ribbon accent and beautiful embroidered cross. The set comes in a display box with a clear lid tied with a white ribbon bow. Item: 26318, \$45.



BABY CRIB CRUCIFIX

This lovely three-lobed crucifix with a pink or blue inlay is perfect for a baby's crib. It measures 3 1/2 inches x 2 1/4 inches and comes with a pink satin or blue satin ribbon. Girl's, Item: 8690P; Boy's, Item: 8690B. Each \$9.

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Seven Children's Book Picks for Winter 2017

BY KERRY CRAWFORD AND PATRICIA A. CRAWFORD

Winter seems like a great time to curl up with a book. The following titles offer something for everyone — books to help children learn the faith, books to connect children with the saints, and books that allow kids to get lost in the pages of exciting, faith-filled adventures. Happy winter reading!

32 Days: A Story of Faith and Courage

written by **Ellen Lucey Prozeller**

Pauline, 2016
128 pages, \$9.95
Eleven-year-old Pei's world is falling apart. The Chinese communists have taken away Sister Elizabeth, jailed the priest and closed the church in her small village. Pei witnesses an officer raise his gun and fire at the tabernacle. Other soldiers trample the consecrated Hosts — 32, to be exact — that have spilled to the floor. Night after night, Pei risks her life to return to the church out of

love for Jesus in the holy Eucharist. Based on a true story that inspired Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's continuing devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Ages 8 and older.

My Little Catechism de Mentière

illustrated by **Emilie Vanvolsem**

Magnificat, 2016
112 pages, \$14.99
In this illustrated catechism, young readers are gently urged to read the Apostles' Creed every day until they know it by heart. Children encounter the beauty of our faith as they learn more about the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in the Church. Questions are asked and answered through easy-to-understand language, short Bible verses and prayers. "Put It Into Practice" challenges readers to go beyond the text. Ideas on how to live what they have learned are given. Ages 7 and up.

Mother Teresa of Kolkata: Saint Among the Poor

written and illustrated by **Didier Chardez**
foreword and epilogue by **Msgr. Leo Maasburg**
Pauline, 2016
66 pages, \$12.95

An intriguing storyline and great images combine to make this graphic novel a good choice for children. Readers learn of Mother Teresa's childhood, her vocation taking her far from her homeland, and her "call within a call" to serve Jesus in the poor. Memories shared by Father Leo, a priest who accompanied the saint for seven years, serve up lesser-known stories about Mother Teresa and her zeal to bring the love of Jesus to the world — one person at a time. Ages 10 and up.

The Costly Cookie Chronicles: A Young Heart Discovers the Face of Christ

written by **Julie Kelly**
illustrated by **Kellie Ryan**
Nativity Press, 2016
191 pages, \$11.95

For the fans of *Clare* (Clare's CONTINUES ON PAGE C3)

FIRST COMMUNION

“Holy Communion augments our union with Christ. The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1391



FIRST COMMUNION WITH JESUS MUSICAL STATUES

Made of a resin/stone mix, this statue plays *The Lord's Prayer* when wound and measures 7 1/2 inches high. Boy's, Item: 62308; Girl's, Item: 62309. Each \$40.



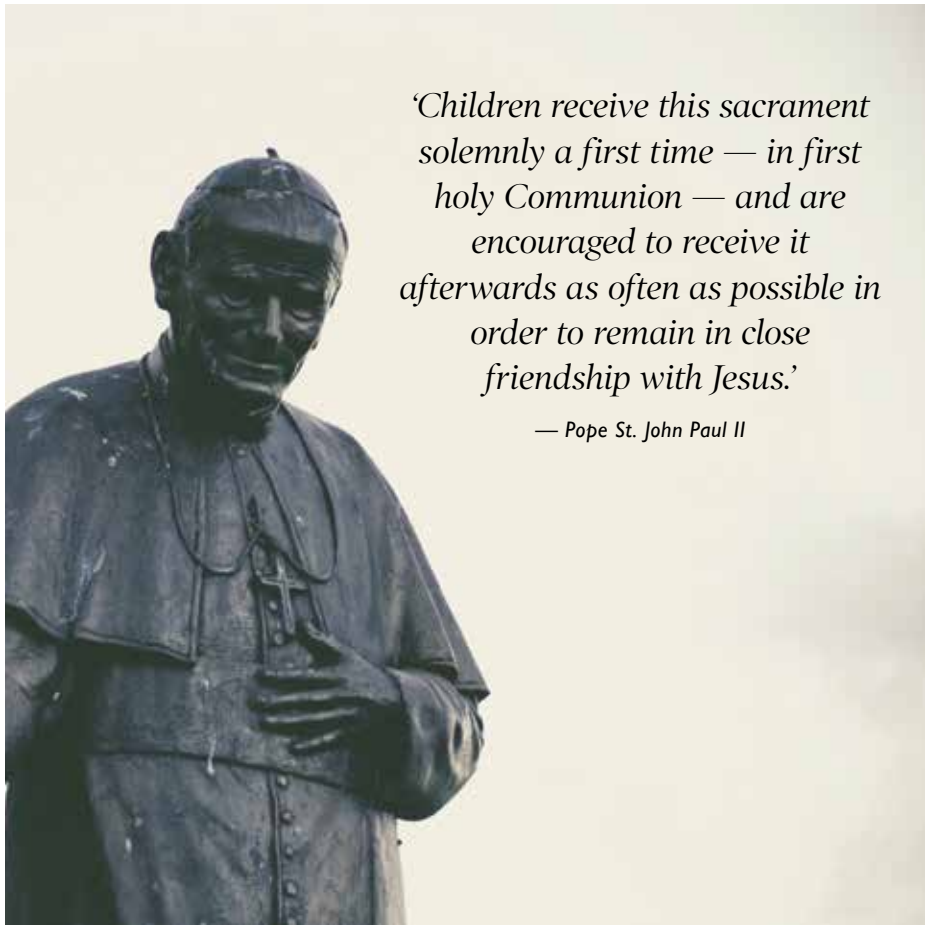
WHEAT, GRAPES AND CHALICE PICTURE FRAME

This keepsake for a child's first Communion holds a photo underneath the inscription, "My First Communion." It is made of resin and is designed to be displayed on a table or desk. Measures 7 1/3 inches x 5 3/4 inches. Item: 47604, \$21.



OLIVE WOOD FIRST COMMUNION ROSARY AND BOX

This rosary is made with olive wood beads and comes in a matching olive wood rosary box. Box measures 2 inches x 2 1/2 inches x 1 1/2 inches and has a bronzed pewter chalice, Host and grapes Eucharistic emblem on the top, with a magnetic closure. Imported from Bethlehem. Item: 600R, \$25.



“Children receive this sacrament solemnly a first time — in first holy Communion — and are encouraged to receive it afterwards as often as possible in order to remain in close friendship with Jesus.”

— Pope St. John Paul II

UNSPASH



FIRST COMMUNION REMEMBRANCE SET

This seven-piece set includes: *My First Holy Communion* Missal; a rosary with an illustrated case; a brown scapular of Mount Carmel; and a lapel pin, holy card and bookmark with gold tassel. The missal uses the updated translation of the English Mass and includes more than 45 color illustrations, a step-by-step description of the Mass for children, popular Catholic devotions, illustrated Mysteries of the Rosary and Stations of the Cross, daily prayers and much more. Padded hardcover. 144 gilded pages. Girl's, Item: 4104G; Boy's, Item: 4104B. Each \$26.



Books

CONTINUING PAGE C2 STORY

Costly Cookie, she's back! Eleven-year-old Clare has set her sights high. She wants to be a saint, but it sure is hard. As Clare sees it, she's selfish, bossy and sometimes mean to her brothers and sisters, and that's just to start! What's a girl to do? The unexpected answer comes from a visiting priest at her church. Holding a rosary, he explains it is a treasure box and that Mary our Mother is the key to opening it. Join Clare as she learns about the life of Jesus — decade by decade — and draws closer to both Mother and Son. Ages 8-12.

The Secret of Glaston Tor: Book One of the Glaston Chronicles

written by **Donal Anthony Foley**

Theotokos, 2015
238 pages, \$11.99
Action abounds in this story about 15-year-old Matt Bergin, an American, and his British cousins, Luke and Annie Martin. Matt is fascinated with the mystical reputation of nearby Glastonbury Tor and its summit, St. Michael's Tower. Little does he dream, how-

ever, that the ancient Marian shrine will lead the cousins to a different time and place. This unexpected adventure has high stakes and expectations. The trio is tasked with helping a German family in 1940 escape from Nazi-occupied France. A misstep could mean capture or worse — and the possibility that the young time-travelers might never return home. Throughout it all, the teens wrestle with God's plan for the world and for themselves. *Ages 12 and up* (as seen in the Register's "2016 Last-Minute Christmas Gift Guide").

The Wolf and the Shield: An Encounter With Saint Patrick

written by **Sherry Weaver Smith**

illustrated by **Nicholas McNally**
Pauline, 2016
120 pages, \$10.95
Kieran has a lot on his mind. He's lost his father, is worried about his family and wants to be a warrior. Meanwhile, he is also navigating the challenges of building relationships that are so much a part of early adolescence. In this multilayered tale, Kieran has "chance" encounters with many who leave their lasting mark on his life. Among

these are the King's chief warrior, a priest named Patrick and a young wolf pup who needs Kieran's care to survive. The warrior and Patrick each invite Kieran to consider a different vision for his life. In caring for the wolf, Kieran learns about friendship and loyalty and also comes to yearn for a "shield of faith." Full of emotional pull, this story will keep readers coming back for more. *Ages 8-12.*

A Missal for Toddlers
written by **Magnificat**
illustrated by **Elen Lescoat**
Ignatius, 2016
22 pages, \$10.99

This first missal is ideal for the wee folk in your home. A board book with padded cover and rounded edges, it is right-sized and sturdy for small hands. Simple prayers and colorful pictures help children to follow the holy Mass step-by-step. A little boy narrates ("Quick, quick, I'm going to Mass. Jesus is expecting me.") and is accompanied by his older sister and parents. Ideal for preparing children for Mass, too. *Ages 3 and up.*

The Crawford sisters write from Pittsburgh. Books are available from Amazon.com.

Does St. Bozo's Parish No Longer Amuse You?

The Catholic religion is the perfect marriage of faith and reason. Faith without reason, Pope St. John Paul II once said, leads to superstition, while reason without faith leads to nihilism. But at the parish level, it often seems that reason — philosophy, inquiry, engagement with ideas — has been abandoned in favor of soft thinking and easy answers. One need only gaze at the felt banners bearing bland, greeting-card sentiments, and listen to homily after homily about Jesus wanting be our best buddy, to get this impression.

Is there room for *intelligent* discourse in the Church anymore? Yes, there is!

We at the **NEW OXFORD REVIEW**, an orthodox Catholic monthly magazine founded in 1977, have been helping to cultivate the relationship between faith and reason for nearly 40 years. You won't hear from us about how all religions are essentially the same and it doesn't matter whom or what you believe in or how you behave, so long as you're "sincere" and "nice." That's not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and you *know* it!

You've heard, time after time, that Jesus is the Lamb of God. "Sweet Jesus, meek and mild." The Lamb metaphor has its place, but in this day and age, it very much needs to be augmented by the metaphor of Christ the Lion. After all, Jesus was a burly carpenter, and He cast out demons and ran roughshod over moneychangers in His public ministry.

When we see Christ again, He will come, not as a lamb, but as a powerful lion, manifest-

ing His glory and judging the world. Revelation 5:5 says: "Weep not; lo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered." And Christ *will* triumph — yea, not least in His Church.

At the **NEW OXFORD REVIEW**, we don't shy away from the "hard" teachings of Christ and His Church. Nor do we turn a blind eye to scandals that inevitably arise inside the House of the Lord. We discuss the *full range* of ideas found at the intersection of faith and culture, and we address *all* the challenges facing the Church today.

Among those who've graced our pages in recent issues are Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. James V. Schall, Thomas Storck, John Medaille, Kenneth Colston, Monica Migliorino Miller, Tom Bethell, David Mills, Anne Barbeau Gardiner, and Chene Richard Heady.

Can *intelligent* Catholic journalism make a difference? The *Los Angeles Times* says we're "influential." According to *Newsweek*, we're "thoughtful and often cheeky." Robert Moynihan, editor-in-chief of *Inside the Vatican*, has called us "provocative." And Karl Keating, founder of Catholic Answers, has dubbed us "Catholicism's intellectual prizefighter."

If you're frustrated by the wishy-washiness, lack of clarity, subtle syncretism, and downright dissent that can often plague parish life, if you're searching for a "face" of Catholicism that's spiritually vibrant, socially concerned, unapologetically pro-life, and doctrinally sound, subscribe today!



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CONFIRMED IN CHRIST ROSARY BOX
Made of resin-stone mix and hand-painted bronze with burgundy accents, this keepsake box measures 2 1/2 inches x 2 1/2 inches and has a removable lid. Item: 40083, \$12.

HOLY SPIRIT ROSARY WITH RED ENAMEL
This rosary would make a nice gift for someone receiving the sacrament of confirmation. It features iridescent red beads and a 2 1/4-inch crucifix. The Holy Spirit center medal features a red enamel overlay on the front, with the "Gifts of the Spirit" listed on the reverse. Item: 65441, \$23.



HOLY SPIRIT MEDAL BRACELET
This sterling silver heart-shaped Holy Spirit medal comes with a 7 1/2-inch stainless steel cable bracelet. Item: B3205, \$56.



FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE SILVER HEART BRACELET
Made up of nine silver-plated hearts, with two alternating designs joined together with a magnetic clasp. The first design is a simple heart with a cross in the center; the second design is a heart with the three theological virtues inscribed around the edge: "FAITH," "HOPE" and "LOVE." This pretty bracelet measures 7 1/2 inches when laid flat. Item: BK22, \$12.



GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT WALL CROSS
This decorative wall cross is made of pewter. At the center, it reads: "Gifts of the Holy Spirit." At the bottom is a dove representing the Holy Spirit, and from his outspread wings flow the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord. Measures 3 3/4 inches x 5 1/2 inches. Item: 7731, Price: \$23.



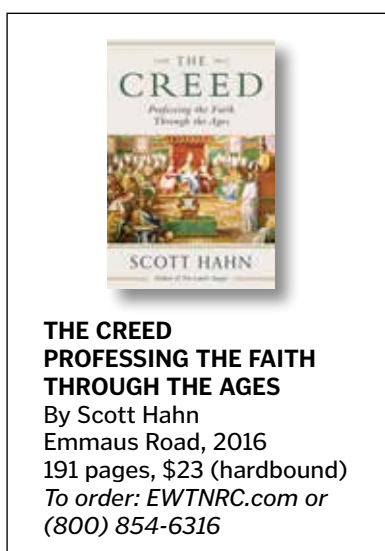
METALLIC RED BEAD HOLY SPIRIT ROSARY BRACELET
This pretty bracelet consists of metallic deep-red faceted beads separated by decorative silver spacers on a stretch cord with a small crucifix and Holy Spirit nickel silver medal with red enamel fill. Measures 2 1/2 inches in diameter and comes in a midnight-blue crushed-velvet gift box. This would make a beautiful confirmation gift or special holy reminder for someone completing R.C.I.A. Item: 45806, \$16.

Scott Hahn Explains the Creed

BY JOHN M. GRONDELSKI

Observers of religious practice in the United States today note the ascendance, especially among millennials, of interest in "spirituality," as opposed to religion. It's chic to be "spiritual" while avoiding the constraints of "dogmatism." The obvious reply is that "spirituality" needs to stem from something or, better, Someone, most especially from God, and if we are to be in spiritual "relationship," we need to know something of whom we are relating.

Bible scholar Scott Hahn shows us just how central creedal statements are to Christianity. The early Trinitarian and Christological disputes were not mere academic fights among theologians. Because they raised questions of how Jesus was both God and man, the implications of their outcomes were just as important for how we understand ourselves as how we understand God.



THE CREED: PROFESSING THE FAITH THROUGH THE AGES
By Scott Hahn
Emmaus Road, 2016
191 pages, \$23 (hardbound)
To order: EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316

Hahn repeatedly emphasizes that the creeds did not originate because Christianity was about propositions, but about Persons: "Faith is our personal clinging to God and to his truth in its entirety. It is our act of trust in everything God is and says and asks of us. Our object is not a proposition, but a Person." Nor is it just a question of know-

ing. What we believe makes us who we are. "[C]reeds don't just make you who you are and I who I am; they also make us who we are. They are the ordinary means God uses to unite his people" (emphasis original).

Hahn's focus is on the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, the Profession of Faith Catholics make every Sunday. He devotes attention to two major themes: its Trinitarian and its Christological affirmations. He points out that the Creed was a central element of the baptismal liturgy: Entering the People of God meant receiving and accepting the faith that bound that people together to God.

Now, consider the Creed's Trinitarian affirmations. When we confess God as "Father" — as "Abba," "daddy" — we are saying that the God who created everything could not be any closer to us! That is a radical statement that sets Christianity apart from everybody else, Hahn explains. "God's eternal fatherhood cannot be squared ... with the other major world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Shin-

toism, Confucianism, or even ... Judaism." It clearly contradicts Islam, in which "God is exclusively transcendent. Thus no one, in heaven or on earth, can call upon God as Father. All other beings stand in relation to God, not as children to a parent, but as slaves to a master. For Mohammed himself, Islam was — most emphatically — submission as a slave, not a son."

So, when a Christian declares, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty," "we confess God as Three-in-One, and we believe the Father has sent his Son to dwell among us — and share with us the Holy Spirit so that we, too, might come to know and share divine life."

Catholic spirituality is not "hooked on a feeling." It stands on a Person, knowledge of whom (limited as it is) makes revolutionary claims about God, us and our relationship. This book offers deep yet readable insight into what we are really saying every Sunday when we proclaim, "I believe."

John M. Grondelski, Ph.D., writes from Falls Church, Virginia.

The Summit Is Just the Beginning

Sometimes It Takes a Dramatic Setting to Remind Us How Epic Our Faith Really Is

BY RACHEL ZAMARRON

"Hill. Yes, that was it. But it is a hasty word for a thing that has stood here ever since this part of the world was shaped."

— Treebeard (from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Two Towers*)

The day had come to attempt to scale Mount Ngauruhoe, also known as "Mount Doom." Tongariro is a favorite hike in New Zealand — and the summit of our trip.

Our Fellowship had many hours of travel by car to return to Christchurch and fly back to Auckland. Once on the North Island we found that the hike through the Alpine Trail had been closed for three days due to the cold. Providentially, it was supposed to warm up enough for the pass to open on the very day we had planned to climb it.

We arrived at the base of the mountain and found it overrun with tourists and shuttle buses. It was a little jarring. Here we thought we would be out in nature, and we were jostling strangers from around the globe as we walked the narrow pathway. We walked up through the flat part and found a nice, private place in the volcanic rocks for Mass and a talk on Mordor. Again, it was such a gorgeous setting for Mass.

The volcanic desolation made it easy to reflect on sacrifice and the parallel imagery of



RACHEL ZAMARRON

Frodo's journey up Mount Doom with the suffering of Christ for us.

I found myself looking up at the mountain in the backdrop, wondering how I was ever going to get to the top. My mind was often on Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati as we climbed. He is known for having been an incredible mountaineer, and he was known for saying, *verso l'alto* or "to the top!"

"To the top" was our goal. We all wanted to reach the summit this time. Frodo's struggle up Mount Doom is such a crucial part of the story. The climb up Mount Ngauruhoe is difficult due to the loose stones and soil that give way underfoot. We had started with a bustling crowd, but by the time we finally neared the top, we had the crater to ourselves.

As we neared the top, we stopped to pray the

Divine Mercy Chaplet while overlooking the valley below. The moment took a normal element of our faith and tied it into a favorite tale of valor and courage. Suddenly, you can see how epic our faith is. In moments when praying is hard, I hope to look back on those moments of prayer.

Overlooking the stunning beauty of creation, so difficult to capture through a camera lens, we prayed as we never had before.

We reached the top of Mount Ngauruhoe and somehow made it all the way back down again. But our real journey continues — the journey of the Christian into the heart of Christ!

Christianity demands more of us: courage to take the hard road; sometimes simply the courage to keep taking one step at a time.

Such was Frodo's courage. Such was the courage of Sam. They didn't give up on hope when the hour got the darkest. This was something J.R.R. Tolkien understood so well. This is why he was able to give us stories that "stayed with us" — stories of hope. That is the central message of Christianity: that there is always hope — even when the hour gets the darkest.

Register staffer Rachel Zamarron traveled with a group in New Zealand and Australia for a special EWTN project. Read more at NCRRegister.com. Tolkien-related resources can be found at EWTNRC.com.

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