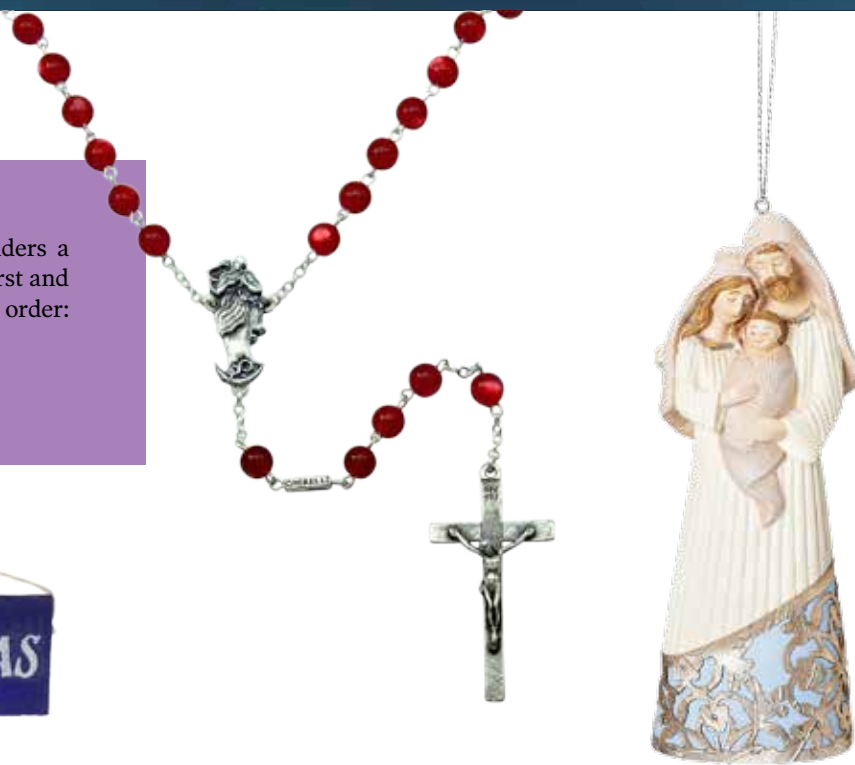




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BABY JESUS WITH ANIMALS PANEL PLAQUE
This rustic panel plaque features a tender Nativity scene with Baby Jesus asleep in the manger surrounded by adoring barn animals, including donkey, ox, ram, sheep, bunny and dove. Faintly printed across the plaque is a portion of the lyrics to the children's song *Carol of the Friendly Beasts*, which begins, "Jesus, our brother, kind and good, was humbly born in a stable rude; and the friendly beasts around him stood. Jesus, our brother, kind and good ..." The plaque is made of medium-density fiberboard and measures approximately 15 inches tall x 11 1/2 inches wide and has a keyhole on the back for hanging. Item: 66275, \$25.

'LOVE WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS' RUSTIC WOOD PLAQUE
This rustic plaque features the quote, "Love was born at Christmas" by English poet Christina Rossetti. This rustic plaque was digitally printed with high-tech inks that slowly stain and permeate the wood. It is a blue plaque with white scratch-free text and measures approximately 3 inches tall x 19 inches wide x 1/2 inches deep and includes an attached twine rope for hanging. Cut from real lumber, it may have some small knots, cracks or imperfections naturally found in the wood that can add character and authenticity. Item: QV21, \$11.95.

'DO SMALL THINGS' ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA QUOTE MUG
This large 15-ounce ceramic mug features a quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta that reads: "Do small things with great love." Microwave- and dishwasher-safe. Item: MQ7, \$15.

HOLY FAMILY LASER-CUT SILVER-AND-BLUE ORNAMENT
This ivory-tone Christmas ornament features the Holy Family in a loving embrace with a decorative light-blue-and-silver papercut base. Made of resin, it measures 5 inches high. Item: 13786, \$7.50.

CHRISTMAS STORYBOOK MUSICAL GLITTER DOME
The base of this traditional Nativity glitter dome is formed in the shape of a great book, reminiscent of the Holy Bible, which is appropriate because of Jesus: "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (John 1:14). A beautiful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas, this musical glitter dome is made of resin, glass and water, with specks of glitter and fiber. It measures 6 inches high x 4 1/4 inches wide x 3 inches deep and plays *O Holy Night* when wound. Item: 13794, \$39.

OUR LADY, UNDOER OF KNOTS ROSARY
This innovative rosary dedicated to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots is made with 6mm red-lucite beads that appear to be lit from within. It has a classic crucifix and a cut-out full image centerpiece of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, both with an antique-silver finish. This special design is exclusively made in Italy by Ghirelli. Rosary measures 21 1/2 inches when laid flat. Item: 17026, \$28.

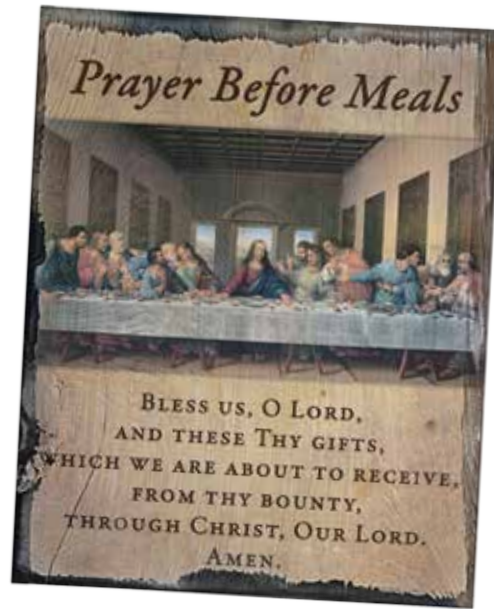
CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SET
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TOMKIN DVD & COLORING BOOK
This EWTN home video features every episode of the award-winning short cartoon *Tomkin*. 30 minutes. Includes a free coloring book. Item: T221K, \$12.

TOMKIN AND BLAISE PLUSH TOYS
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(CHRIST)MAS MUSICAL SNOW GLOBE
Simple yet profound, this festive snow globe is a sweet reminder that Love was born on Christmas. Depicted by a large red heart in the midst of a humble manger scene beneath the Star of Bethlehem, this scene represents Jesus, the Word made flesh for us. On the bright red base, written in bold white letters is: "(CHRIST) MAS" — a nice reminder to keep Christ in Christmas. Snow globe measures 4 inches in diameter and stands approximately 6 inches high. When wound, it plays *Joy to the World*. Item: 13170, \$30.

'JOY' ADVENT CANDLE HOLDER AND CANDLES
This decorative Advent candle holder is made of resin but designed to look like carved wood. It is shaped like the word "Joy," featuring the Baby Jesus and two sheep in front of a scenic background of stable animals and the city of Bethlehem in the distance. On the base it reads: "We love him because He first loved us." Made of a resin composite, it measures 7 inches high x 9 1/4 inches wide x 3 1/4 inches deep without the candles. Includes three purple candles and one pink candle. Item: 33061K, \$48.



HOLY FAMILY STATUE
From the Renaissance Collection, this beautiful statue is handpainted with great attention to detail. It is made of resin and measures 16 inches tall. Item: 11365, \$71.

'PRAYER BEFORE MEALS' PLAQUE
This rustic wood plaque is made with wood from trees grown and harvested in Steubenville, Ohio. Each solid-wood plaque is hewn and crafted by woodworkers and then digitally printed with high-tech inks that slowly stain and permeate the wood with a scratch-free image. This plaque features the "Prayer Before Meals" with a picture of Leonardo Da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Made up of a single board, it measures 8 inches x 10 inches and comes ready to hang. Since these rustic plaques are made from real wood, each piece may have minor cracks, knots or other imperfections that add character and authenticity. 100% made in the U.S.A. Item: 7737B, \$33.



"The best thing I did in ministry was to teach children the Gospel through plays," says Sister Clare Vandecoevering, 88. "Oh, they were just delighted!" A member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, she spent over 50 years in the classroom.

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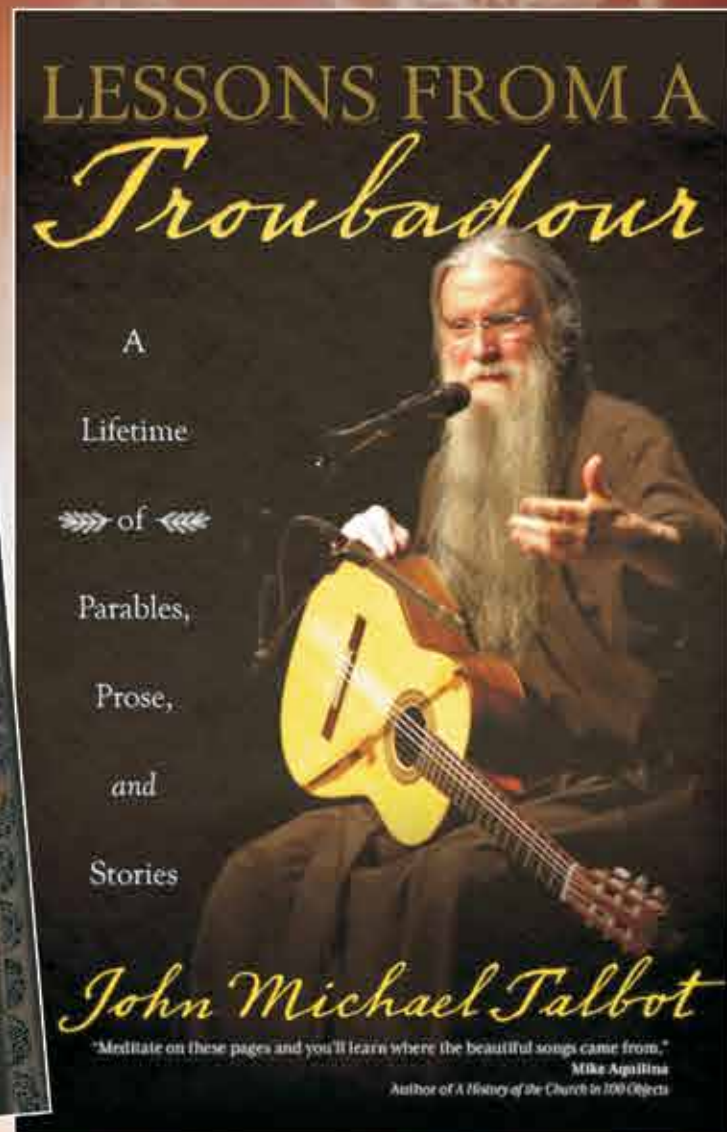
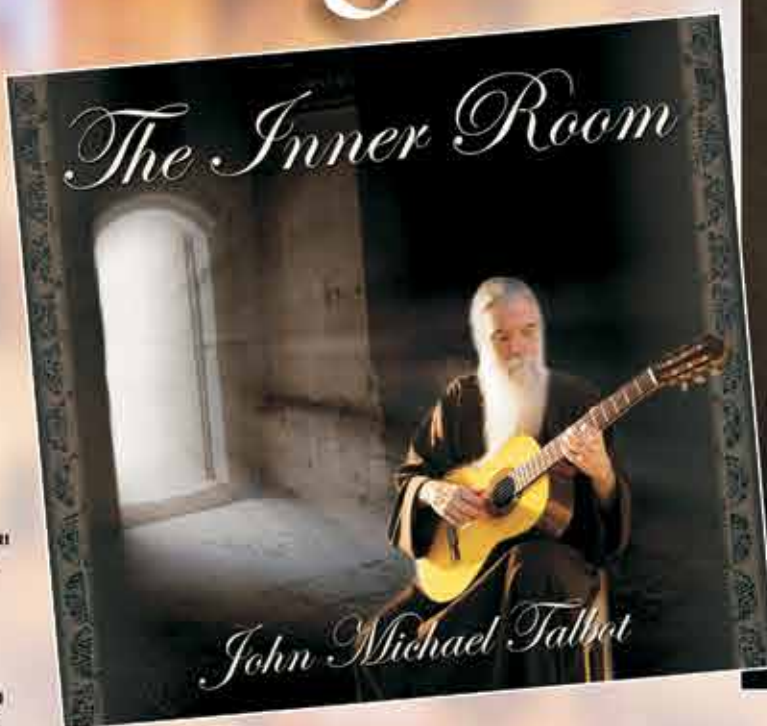
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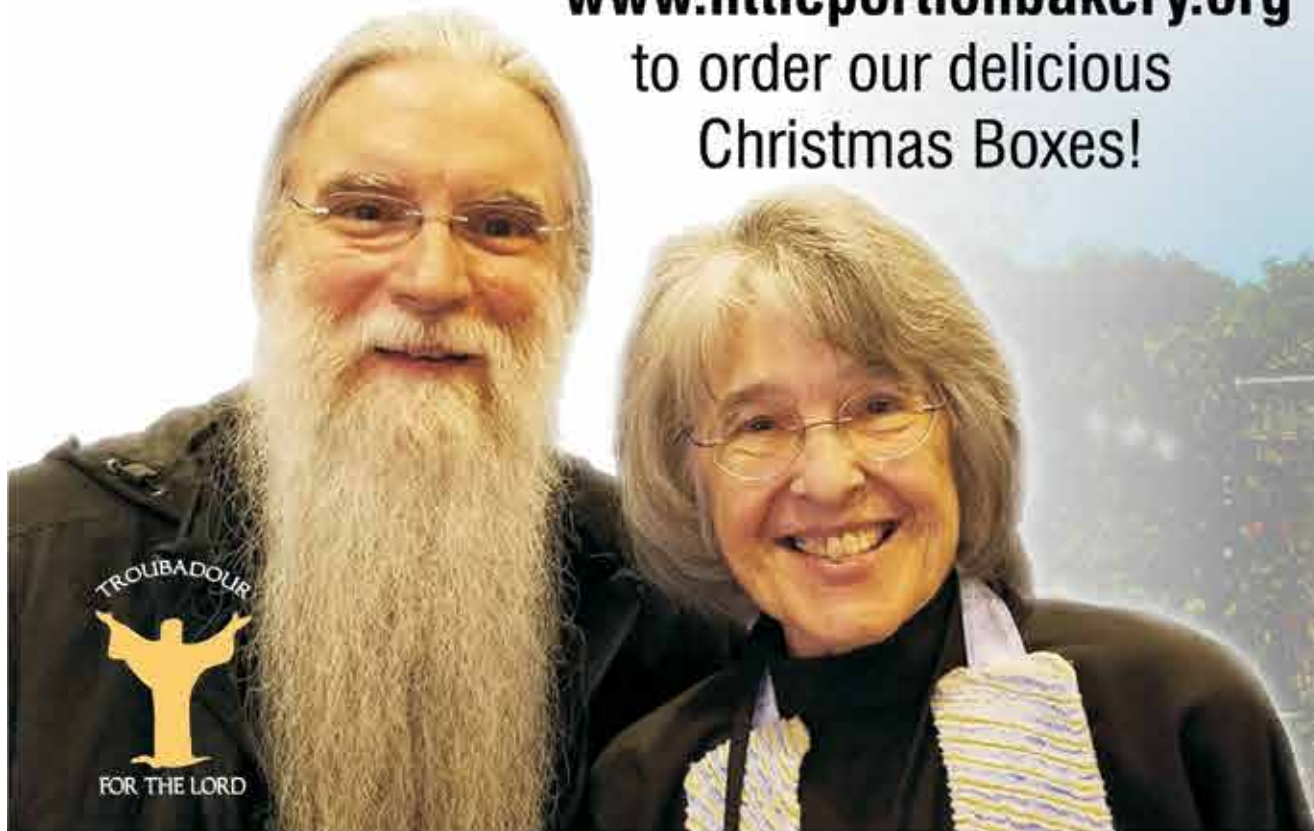
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'AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH' TAPESTRY WALL HANGING
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ROSE-BEAD OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS EARRINGS
 These beautiful earrings were designed and developed by Seraphym Designs exclusively for EWTN Religious Catalogue. Each earring has a 5mm solid hand-cast bronze rose followed by a larger 8mm mother-of-pearl carved rose bead and a smaller 4mm facet-cut aqua crystal bead cap. These elegant earrings have a slight 7/8-inch dangle. Item: EW7, \$22.50.

WARRIOR'S ROSARY
 This rosary includes semiprecious 8mm hematite beads. Our Father medals are shields of Sts. Joseph, Michael the Archangel, George, Louis IX King of France and Ignatius of Loyola, along with Blessed Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio. The center medal has a "Warriors for the Kingdom" shield and crossed swords on the front and Mary holding Baby Jesus on the back. The two-toned crucifix is in the shape of a 2-inch sword. Made by Italian rosary maker Ghirelli from Thomas K. Sullivan's original design. Gift boxed with information pamphlet. Item: WR8H, \$95.

OLIVE WOOD NATIVITY ROSARY WITH RELIC
 This very special rosary is made with 5mm olive wood beads from the Holy Land, along with a pewter crucifix and center. On the front of the centerpiece is an image of the Holy Family, and encased on the reverse is a third-class relic, a piece of cloth that was touched to the very spot marking the traditional site on which Jesus was born in the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem. When laid flat, the rosary measures 17 inches. Imported from the West Bank. Item: 74NAT, \$14.

BABY JESUS WITH ANIMALS STATUE
 This sweet statue depicts Baby Jesus asleep in the manger while a group of barn animals gather to adore the Divine Child. Handpainted with beautiful detail, this resin statue measures 6 inches high x 4 inches wide. Item: 66005, \$18.

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This beautiful Nativity will be a reverent focal point. Made of resin, the tallest piece measures 21 1/2 inches high. Expected ship date is Nov. 16. Item: 63245, \$210.

Can We Think Like Jesus?

BY TIM DRAKE

Remember the “WWJD” bracelets that reminded wearers to consider “What Would Jesus Do?”

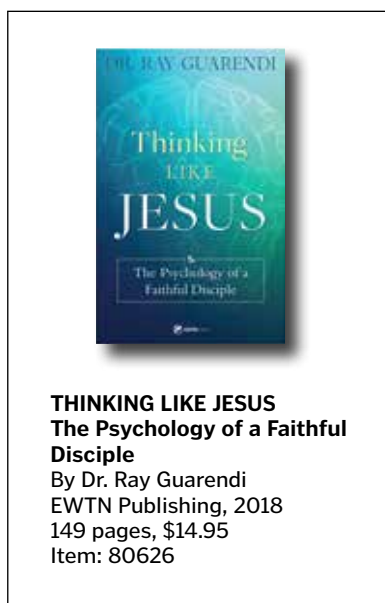
This book could bear the abbreviation “WWJT” — “What Would Jesus Think?” The title might, at first, seem a bit presumptuous. The reader may ask, “Can we really think like Jesus?” Catholic radio and television personality and clinical psychologist Dr. Ray Guarendi believes we can, and he makes his case in his latest book.

Anyone familiar with Dr. Ray will recognize him here, as his direct style and characteristic humor shine through. You can practically hear him speaking as you read.

In *Thinking Like Jesus*, he uses his clinical expertise, coupled with his faith, to tackle topics such as humility, the need for a will aligned with God, hurtful words, raising children and virtue. Along the way, there’s also plenty of wisdom from the Gospels and the Church. Through it all, Dr. Ray helps us to better understand the sinful, human person and how to love one another better.

This self-help book turns pop psychology on its head by applying biblical principles to the questions people commonly ask, such as: “Is it normal?” Dr. Ray suggests that we’re often asking the wrong questions. He challenges the reader: If you’re going to be a follower of Christ, that demands certain actions.

Readers will appreciate Guarendi’s honesty. “What’s the best thing we can give to those who matter most to us? Our gift is our personal-



THINKING LIKE JESUS
The Psychology of a Faithful Disciple
By Dr. Ray Guarendi
EWTN Publishing, 2018
149 pages, \$14.95
Item: 80626

ity, specifically its better side. We can make the effort to be winsome, to show interest in them and their lives, to be pleasant and agreeable, and to be less self-focused and more them-focused.”

Readers will also appreciate the wisdom and his fresh outlook.

Parents, especially, will find this book helpful and edifying. In a particularly strong chapter, “Spiritual Correctness,” he tackles what he terms “psychological correctness,” noting that even the experts can’t agree on the best techniques for child-raising.

He tackles the myth that “there are ways, if not to guarantee, at least to make it very likely, that a child raised in the faith will remain in the faith,” pointing out that each human person has free will and their own personality and circumstances that propel them to belief. “Could Christ himself get everyone to follow him?” asks Guarendi.

The answer is “No.” Yet we often still feel like we can do better than Christ himself. He warns parents against the extremes of taking too much pride and credit in and for their children’s faith, or despairing and blaming themselves for their children’s lack of it, while encouraging them to practice the faith fully as a family.

“The natural ways of children push us to supernatural virtues,” writes Guarendi. Elsewhere he writes, “The more I complain, the more I’m telling God I don’t appreciate His gifts.”

Insightful, Dr. Ray aptly describes where we find ourselves culturally. He rejects a lot of modern psychology and tackles the use of value-laden words and the rise of self-esteem.

“The Bible nowhere uses the language of moral neutrality. If centuries of experience are any guide, it is not the presence of moral words that damages the psyche. It is their absence.”

The book is broken up into short, easy-to-read chapters. At times, Dr. Ray can be a bit repetitive. More than once, he writes about self-worth, reminding readers that our worth is determined by God, not us. Still, such points deserve repetition. *Thinking Like Jesus* will help you deal with difficult situations and people by better understanding yourself and your own motivations. Instead of describing it as a self-help book, it might be more apt to call it a “God-help” book.

Tim Drake serves as executive director of Pacem in Terris Hermitage Retreat Center near Isanti, Minnesota.



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(Mass) Journaling for Jesus

BY CLARE WALKER

When Kassie Manning and Christie Peters were roommates at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, they went to Mass faithfully every Sunday, but they “were hungry for something more,” said Peters.

They joined a campuswide nondenominational Christian fellowship, where they learned not only a greater appreciation for the Bible, but in imitation of their Protestant brothers and sisters, they took up the practice of taking a journal to Mass and jotting down notes on the homily, the readings or anything that resonated deeply during the liturgy. They took this habit with them after they graduated in 2012 and took up their respective careers in the Houston area.

But the duo realized a blank journal doesn't include Scripture. In order to refer to and highlight the Sunday readings, one needs a large missal or Bible, too. The delicate pages of a missal don't stand up to underlining and notetaking, and space is limited. Plus, flipping between books during Mass can be cumbersome and distracting.

With all of this in mind, almost two years ago, Manning and Peters, who remained friends after college, voiced the same thought: “What if those two things — Sunday missal and journal — were combined into one volume?”

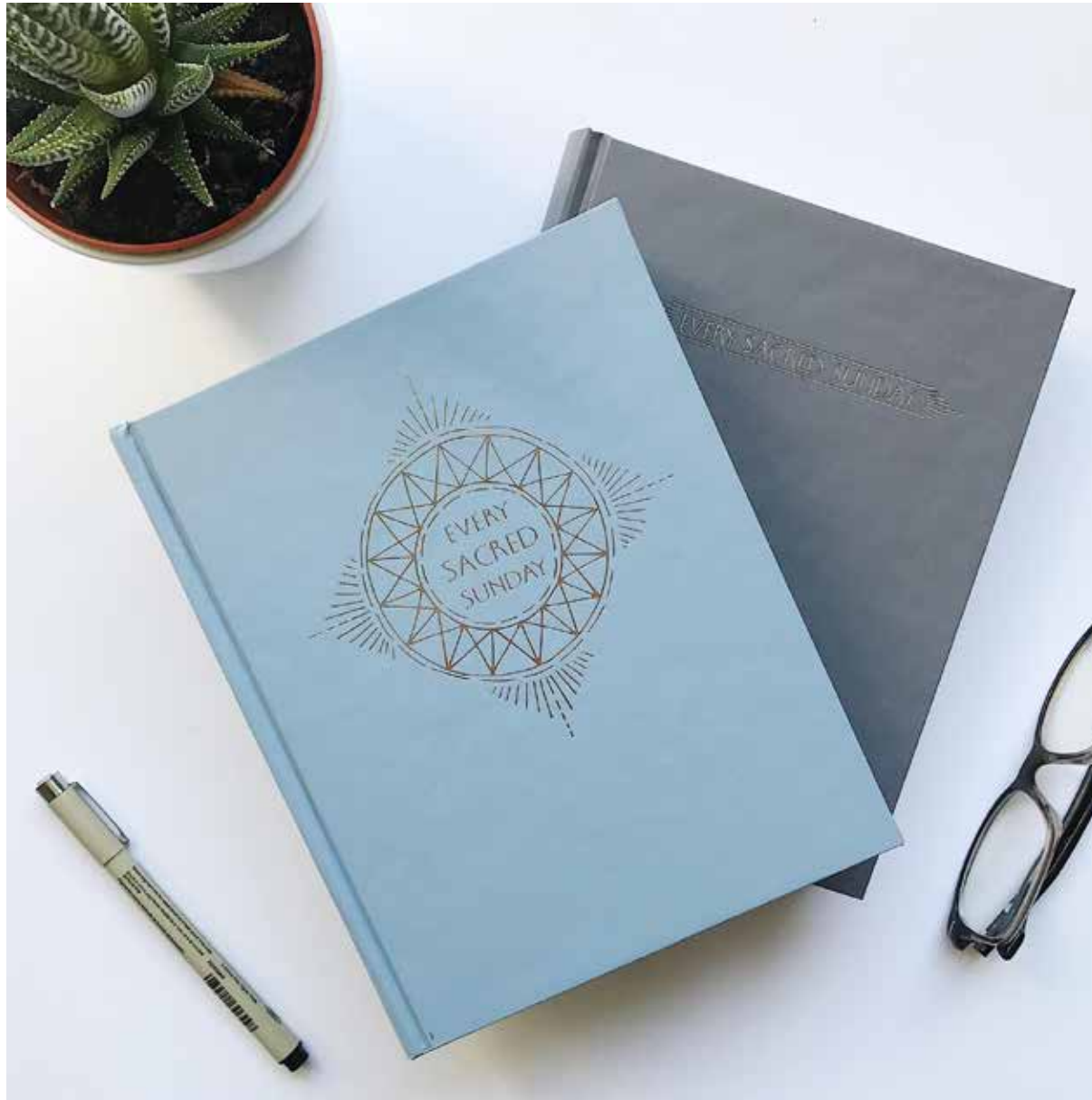
“We looked all over for a single-volume publication that combined the Sunday liturgical readings and had space for journaling and notetaking,” said Peters. “But we discovered that the product we wanted didn't exist. So we asked one another, ‘What if we created it ourselves?’”

“Once we said it out loud,” said Manning, “we felt called to do it.”

Neither of them had any experience in business or publishing: Manning majored in Spanish and biology at Trinity and was working in health-care consulting. Peters majored in art and anthropology and was a full-time art teacher.

Yet, in August 2017, after several months of research and development, including the production of four prototypes of the journal, they launched the project on Kickstarter: the *Every Sacred Sunday* Mass journal.

Their goal was to raise \$28,000 in 30 days so that they could print several hundred copies of the journal. The results far exceeded their expectations: “We raised \$28,000 in 12 hours,” said Peters. During the 30-day Kickstarter campaign,



LITURGICAL NOTE-TAKERS. Kassie Manning and Christie Peters wanted to journal at Mass, so they created a journal for themselves that is popular with other Massgoers. Courtesy of Kassie Manning and Christie Peters

they raised enough money for a first print run of 5,000 copies.

They credit this astonishing success to a combination of exhaustive research, meticulous preparation and energetic word-of-mouth promotion on social media — and the power of the Holy Spirit.

“We feel like this is the Holy Spirit's project,” said Peters. “The book is filling a space that hadn't been filled, and he gave it to us to be his hands and feet to bring it into the world.”

The Mass journal contains all of the Sunday readings for the year, beginning with Advent, and is formatted with plenty of space for notes, prayer requests and a spiritual action plan called “Going Forth.” The pages are sturdy enough for highlighting and vigorous writing and also color-coded according to the liturgical seasons.

Amy Malone, a project manager in Houston — and childhood friend of Peters — purchased the Mass journal last year.

“*Missa est* means ‘you are sent,’” she said. “It's hard to be sent when you leave Mass with no

THE MASS JOURNAL CONTAINS ALL OF THE SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE YEAR, BEGINNING WITH ADVENT. THE PAGES ARE STURDY ENOUGH FOR HIGHLIGHTING AND VIGOROUS WRITING AND ALSO COLOR-CODED ACCORDING TO THE LITURGICAL SEASONS.

plan.” The Mass journal provides Catholics with a structured way to bring the blessings of the Mass into the week ahead, “so that you can really receive the richness Jesus want to give you.”

Amy's husband, Bryan, is a recent convert to Catholicism from a nondenominational Protestant church. “Bringing a Bible and taking notes in church was something I was already comfortable with,” he said, “but the Mass journal really helped me learn how to wor-

ship as a Catholic. It's practical as well as beautiful.”

Jen Bartley, mother of four and youth-ministry coordinator at Holy Trinity Church in Westmont, Illinois, finds the journal most fruitful for Mass preparation. She describes the Mass journal as “a sacred space to spend special time with God in the Scriptures.”

“We were hungry for this,” said Peters, who painted the watercolor illustrations throughout the book. “It's clear that many, many other Catholics are hungry for the same thing.”

Manning agrees. Many Catholics purchase a copy for themselves and additional copies as gifts. “People are on fire to share something that will help them grow in their faith.”

Clare Walker writes from Westmont, Illinois.

INFORMATION

The new edition of the Mass journal releases Nov. 15, in time for the beginning of the new liturgical year, starting with the first week of Advent. Available at EverySacredSunday.com.



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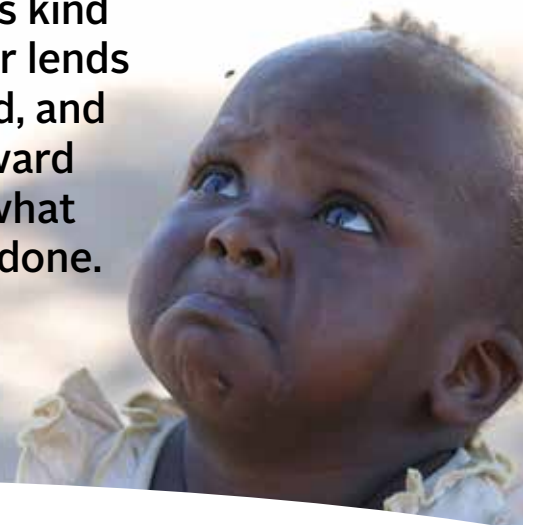
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Be Married, Be Holy: Book Offers Couples' Retreat

BY ELIZABETH PARDI

It's no secret that the vast majority of present-day marriages aren't living up to their potential. It's also no secret that a common reason for marriages being deprived of passion and purpose is rampant complacency among spouses. Many of us just don't care enough, or have the time, to challenge ourselves to be better, to do better.

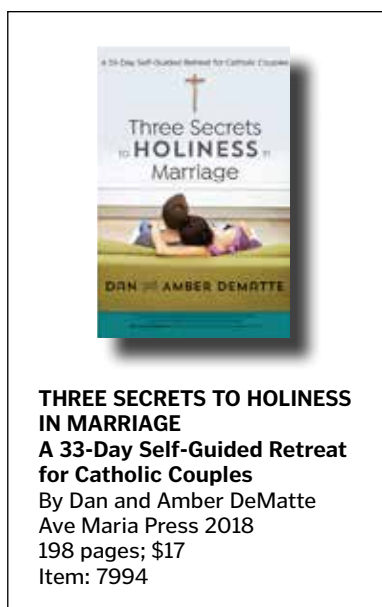
That's why Dan and Amber DeMatte's new book, *Three Secrets to Holiness in Marriage: A 33-Day Self-Guided Retreat for Catholic Couples*, serves as a refreshing and informative wake-up call for married couples in search of a courageous mission for their relationship.

A do-it-yourself retreat, the book contains 33 chapters, each representing a different day. The first several pages of each day introduce and discuss an important biblical theme for marriage, such as obedience, followed by thought-provoking discussion questions and then a prayer for couples to say together.

My husband and I found ourselves immersed in multiple impactful conversations about ourselves, our interactions with each other and our marriage in general as a result of some of the questions posed by the authors.

For example, “When do we feel as if our spouse is not hearing our needs?” forced us to honestly open up about the areas where we struggle and are in need of each other's support.

The DeMattes, an adorably humorous and genuine duo with four little ones, possess a wealth of knowledge about the sacrament of



THREE SECRETS TO HOLINESS IN MARRIAGE
A 33-Day Self-Guided Retreat for Catholic Couples
By Dan and Amber DeMatte
Ave Maria Press 2018
198 pages; \$17
Item: 7994

marriage, as well as family life. Since they both have extensive experience in youth and adult ministry, they have been deep in the trenches and have seen where spouses struggle and sin due to lack of direction in areas like finances and sexuality.

At one point, Dan relays a conversation he had after speaking to a group of men about giving more of themselves in order to remedy problems like homelessness and human trafficking.

“After the session was over, a man came up to me and asked, ‘Why should I make their problem my problem?’ ... He went on to explain how he works hard for his money, and he feels as if he should only look after ‘me and my own,’ as he put it. After a few minutes of conversing, the Spirit filled me with words to say, ‘... What if Jesus had that mentality about the problem of our sin and death? You see, Jesus

made our problem his problem. So if you want to be a Christian, you freely choose to make their problem your problem.”

In spite of their aptitude as Catholics, spouses, parents, ministers, speakers and more, the DeMattes in no way lord their experience or expertise over their readers. They write with a humble authenticity that makes it clear that they struggle and stumble just like the rest of us.

“We haven't written this retreat from the mountaintop of perfection, telling you to climb the mountain as we have,” they write. “We have written [it] as fellow climbers, striving to reach the summit of perfect love, knowing that the climb will be long and difficult but will come with great reward in the end.”

One of the most enlightening aspects of the book for me personally was its message that marriage is supposed to aid us in imitating Jesus.

Like many others, I once assumed that those who embrace religious vocations that require celibacy are automatically superior imitators of Jesus. The DeMattes effectively squash that false assumption, making it clear that marriage is a beautiful opportunity to become more like Christ, not less.

Specifically, they elaborate on how the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience taken by those entering religious life can and should be observed by married individuals, as well. The authors clarify what each one of those three evangelical counsels is, since there exists a great deal of misunderstanding about them and what they entail.

Chastity, for example, is often incorrectly assumed to mean only

abstinence from sex. However, “Chastity — giving and receiving love as Christ gives and receives love — should be seen as a virtue that is forged through the daily lives of married couples. Whenever the couple gives completely of themselves to the other and to their children, they are promoting and living conjugal chastity.”

Poverty is another counsel that is often mistakenly assumed to mean only a renunciation of all wealth and possessions.

Once again, the DeMattes educate readers by making “a distinction between destitution and Gospel poverty,” as they put it. “Wealth and Gospel poverty aren't opposed to one another. Gospel poverty doesn't evaluate how much profit one makes, but rather how the one who profits uses their wealth.”

Although enlightening, encouraging and even exciting in its unusual approach to a holy, spousal lifestyle, *Three Secrets to Holiness in Marriage* is nothing short of a challenge. There were times after completing a chapter that I found myself uncomfortably forced to evaluate my own habits and choices. But the evaluation led to necessary conversations and changes that have strengthened our relationship and helped us flourish. A thriving marriage, after all, is what the authors are hoping to help their readers achieve.

As the DeMattes note, “We don't know about you, but we want to be fully alive. We want our marriage and our family to be everything God created it to be. We don't want to survive — we want to thrive.”

Elizabeth Pardi writes from Columbus, Ohio.

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