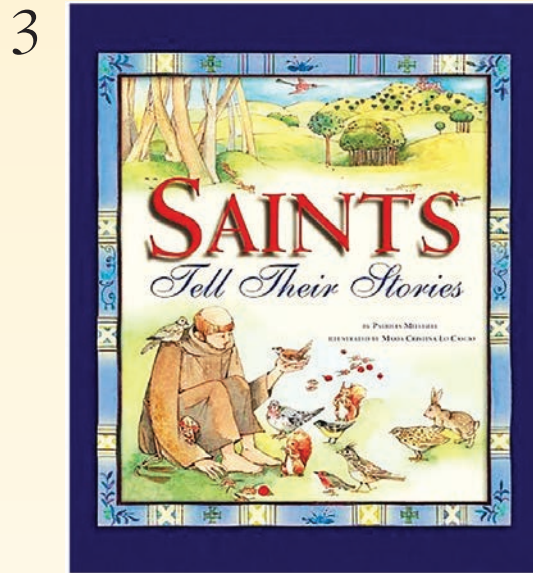


SHUTTERSTOCK

# Last-Minute Christmas Gift Guide 2019

The remaining days of Advent are few. The celebration of Jesus' birthday is almost here! The Register offers more Christmas gifts for everyone on your list. We hope that these gift ideas will ease your shopping schedule and allow ample time to prepare your heart and home for the coming of Christ. To order: EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316 (unless otherwise noted). (Prices subject to change.)



**1. JEWEL-TONE HOLY FAMILY ORNAMENT**  
This exquisitely detailed Christmas ornament features a 3-D image of the Holy Family standing in a golden archway with a jeweled texture. Made of a resin-stone mix, it measures 4 1/2 inches high. Item: 33209, \$16.50.

**2. STAINED-GLASS NATIVITY LANTERN**  
This lightweight lantern is designed to look like antiqued brass with stained glass. It features four colorful appliques of the Nativity on clear panes surrounding a battery-operated candle and dome light that cast a soft glow when turned on and still look pretty when the light is off. Made of durable plastic, the lantern measures 11 inches high x 4 inches wide x 4 inches deep. (Requires 3 AA batteries; not included.) Item: 60172, \$34.

**3. SAINTS TELL THEIR STORIES**  
Children will learn about the lives of 25 different saints, including St. Bernadette, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Joseph and Mary, in this engaging book. Each of the saints' stories are written in first-person and accompanied by a colorful illustration. Ages 5 to 10. Hardcover. 61 pages. Item: 51611, \$14.

**4. 'LOVE WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS' FRAMED WALL PLAQUE**  
This rustic framed plaque has the quote "Love was born at Christmas" printed in blue directly on wood with a gold star in the upper right corner. The framed quote measures 12 inches x 12 inches and is also framed in wood to measure 13 inches long x 13 inches wide x 1 3/8-inch deep overall. 100% U.S.-made in Steubenville, Ohio. Item: RFP21, \$50.

**5. ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX CHILDREN'S CROSS PLAQUE**  
From the Little Drops of Water collection, this bright and festive cross-shaped wall plaque features a low-relief image of the Little Flower with a colorful background of flowers and a big pink heart. Made of resin, it measures 5 3/4 inches high x 3 3/4 inches wide, with a brass triangle hook for hanging on the back. Item: CP340, \$9.95.

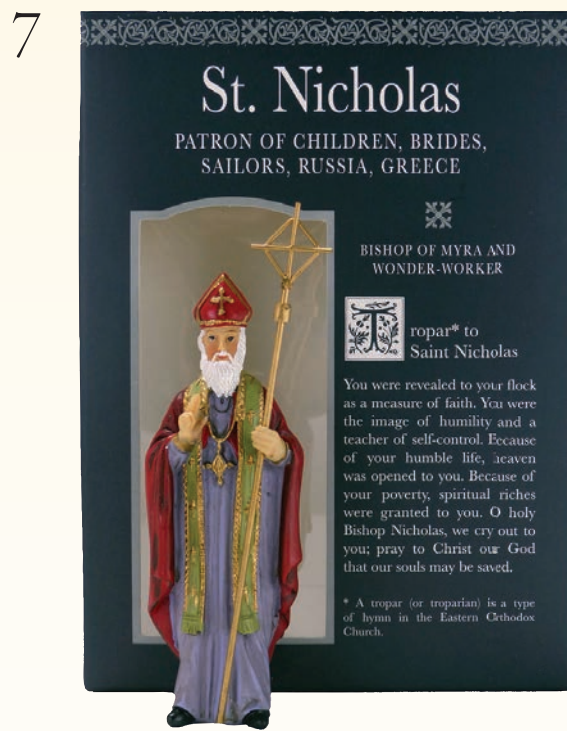
**6. CHRISTMAS DVD SPECIAL FOR KIDS**  
Kids will enjoy watching a quartet of Christmas-themed cartoons about the birth of Jesus and St. Nicholas. Item: CCSDK, \$27.50.

**7. ST. NICHOLAS GIFT SET**  
This beautifully packaged gift set includes a 3 1/2-inch figure of St. Nicholas with a matching holy card. St. Nicholas is the patron of children and brides. The gift box includes the history of this saint and a prayer for his intercession. Statue is made of resin. Item: 50285, \$12.50.

**8. HOLY FAMILY WITH ARCH AND ANIMALS**  
This four-piece Nativity set features a statue of the Holy Family that is painted winter white with a delicate paper cut detail of the city of Bethlehem and the Nativity stable on the front. It comes with a matching arch, an ox, a sheep and a donkey. The tallest piece, the arch, measures approximately 10 1/4 inches. Item: 31715, \$37.

**9. MOTHER MARY & JESUS PLUSH DOLL**  
This stuffed Mary doll holding Baby Jesus brings the stories of the Bible to life for toddlers and young children. Give this knit fabric doll as a huggable gift. Made of soft plush fabric with embroidered features, it measures 12 3/4 inches high and comes with an attached gift tag that reads: "Mary and her precious Son were gifts from God above. Her blessed life and faithful heart teach us strength and love." Item: H1124, \$14.95.

**10. TOMKIN T-SHIRT YOUTH**  
This fun children's T-shirt features a colorful image of EWTN's favorite animated Catholic cowboy. Made of a comfortable cotton/poly blend (50/50), it is available in x-small to large sizes. Item: CHIAP887, \$15.95.



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# Meet the Miracle Boy Saved By Fulton Sheen's Prayers

BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN

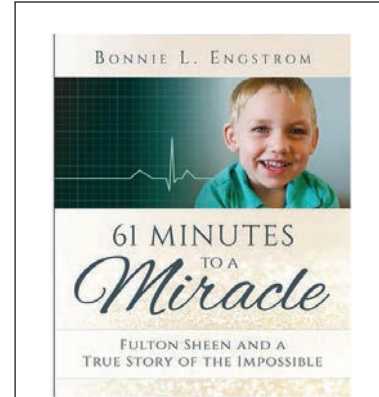
What could be a more heartwarming, inspiring, triumphant story than one about a baby brought back to life from the dead? What is more incredible than a baby healed of abnormalities in a way medical science could not explain, except for doctors and nurses to say, many times over, "He shouldn't be like this. It's amazing. ... It's astounding and really, really wonderful ... I'd say a miracle?"

The story of James Fulton Engstrom, the child, became the miracle that assured the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, which the Church will celebrate Dec. 21. His mother, Bonnie Engstrom, describes the events with such moving, sometimes heart-wrenching, surprising, unexpected and ultimately uplifting and triumphant detail in her book *61 Minutes to a Miracle* that her son's story should make even an unbeliever in the miracle weep with compassion and finally with gratitude and joy for this blessed family.

Another reason why Engstrom's book is so exceptional is that this miracle story is shared in so much detail, covering all pertinent events, from the months before the miracle to years afterward.

Fast-forwarding to the outcome, Engstrom writes, "If you saw my kids and me at the park today, you would never be able to guess which one should, by all accounts, be severely disabled. In fact, unless you saw the two scars on his should-have-been-amputated leg, or the gastrostomy-tube scar on his belly, you would never assume he had any kind of medical history at all."

Indeed, Bonnie and Travis Eng-



**61 MINUTES TO A MIRACLE**  
Fulton Sheen and a True Story of the Impossible  
By Bonnie L. Engstrom  
Our Sunday Visitor, 2019  
144 pages; \$13.95  
EWTN Item: T1421  
To order: ewtnrc.com or  
(800) 854-6316

strom faced any parents' worst nightmare. Even if James had come to life 61 minutes after being born, readers learn that without the miracle through the intercession of Archbishop Sheen that continued to unfold, he would have either died very soon after or, if he managed to survive, would have been severely disabled.

But more than recounting facts, Engstrom brings readers into the family as friends with whom she shares all the touching details, the ups and downs of the journey from before James' birth to his miracle, ultimately chosen for Archbishop Sheen's beatification cause. She tells the story in such a personal way — it makes for can't-put-it-down reading.

Page after page, with her natural, conversational style, she draws readers in with genuine emotion, honesty and significant observations. This page-turner relives the events with the family moment by moment.

When during the home birth it was clear the baby was not breathing or responding to emergency treat-

ment, Travis performed an emergency baptism. As Bonnie writes, "Travis looked around the room for water. Taking the cup I had been sipping from throughout labor, he dipped in his fingers and thumb. The water sprinkled down on James's forehead, and with his thumb Travis traced the Sign of the Cross above our son's brow. His voice was soft and clear, even though it was suppressing a great deal of emotion. 'James Fulton, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'"

"It was the first time that either of us had spoken James's full name. There was power in it, because we had made an intentional decision that every time our children's names are spoken, it will be an invocation of the saints for whom they are named."

There's great truth and beauty in the way faith weaves throughout the unfolding events and circumstances, from the times God's plan could not be understood, but eventually was in hindsight, to times of questioning and uncertainty — bolstered by details, punctuated by amazement and awe, of the Church's centuries-old procedures of investigating miracles.

As Engstrom writes, "At times I still ask myself, 'Why did all this happen, and why did it happen to us?' The simple answer is, I don't know — but to the best of my understanding, everything has been as God wanted it to be. As I once explained it to a friend, 'God set the table.' God put down the linens, laid out the dishes, arranged the flatware, and set out the food. He invited me and my family to join him. All we did was show up and sit down in the chairs he pulled out for us."

This moving story of family life on the edge of heartbreak, buoyed by boundless hope and then ultimately triumphing in life and faith is one to rejoice over. Don't pass it up.

Joseph Pronechen is a Register staff writer.

## Take a Marian Pilgrimage in France

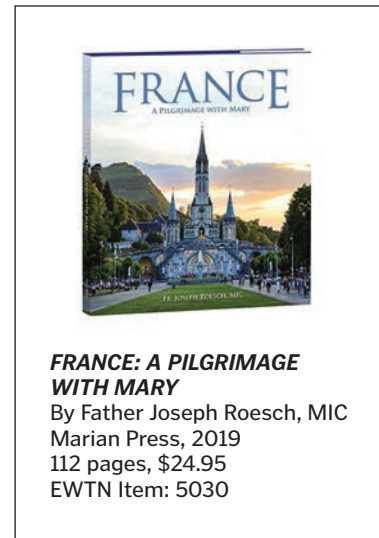
BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN

It's time to book another "arm-chair trip" with Father Joseph Roesch. This third in a series of pilgrimages to shrines and major churches of our Blessed Mother again comes to life with loads of eye-catching photos filling this coffee-table-sized book.

We get to visit nine of these holy sites, shrines and churches. Among them are such familiar names as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (which Father Roesch visited just months before it suffered a great fire), Lourdes and La Salette.

Father Roesch is a tour guide who knows how to add some personal color. Arriving at Lourdes, he tells us, "The town of Lourdes seemed like a fairytale setting, with a river running through the village and castle set on a hill."

In Paris, readers visit Notre Dame Cathedral and look at a wonderful photo of the rose window, among other important details.



**FRANCE: A PILGRIMAGE WITH MARY**  
By Father Joseph Roesch, MIC  
Marian Press, 2019  
112 pages, \$24.95  
EWTN Item: 5030

Readers also learn how the Basilica of Our Lady of Victories is connected to the healing of St. Thérèse of Lisieux and how it attracted saints like John Vianney and St. John Henry Newman inside its doors.

Father Roesch also shares the stories of the visionaries who saw

Our Lady — among them St. Bernadette and the children Eugene and Joseph at Pontmain.

Father Roesch, who is vicar general of the Marian Father of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offers an arm-chair pilgrimage that is unmistakably Marian. The scores of beautiful photos help readers appreciate the exquisite details of the shrines and the many statues and representations of our Blessed Mother connected with them, offering close-up views of Our Lady in her various titles in these different places and highlighting the messages she has brought to the faithful and the importance of listening to her timeless motherly concerns.

Father Roesch concludes, "Let us live as faithful children of Mary by following her example and offering to the Lord the gift of our lives in thanksgiving for all we have received!"

Joseph Pronechen is a Register staff writer.  
Read more at NCRRegister.com.

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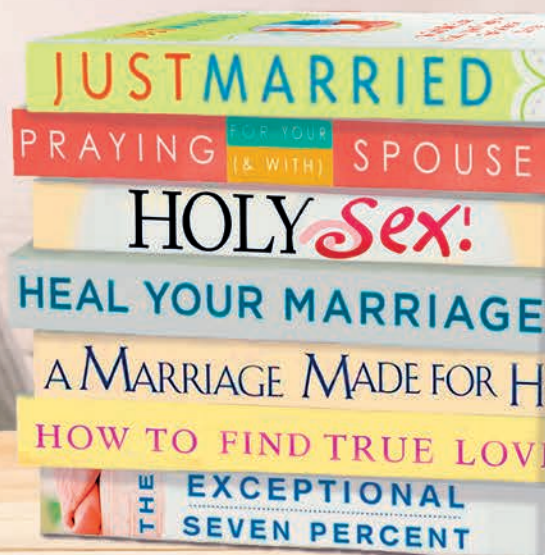


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## A Christmas Prayer

*O sweet and gentle Infant of Bethlehem, grant us the gift of sharing with our whole soul this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men the peace that at times they sent so openly and that thou alone can give them. Help them to know themselves better and to live like brothers as the sons of one single Father. Reveal to them, too, thy beauty, thy holiness and thy purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for thy infinite goodness. Unite them all in thy charity. And give them thy heavenly peace. Amen.*

— Prayer of Pope St. John XXIII, Dec. 25, 1960  
Source: Vatican.va

# Rejoicing in Christmas

## How to Celebrate Fully the 12 Days

BY CLAIRE DWYER

**F**or families, there can be temptation at Christmas-time to pack everything into Advent — both the preparation and celebration crammed into a season meant for peaceful anticipation.

This is actually a distortion of the liturgical year, in which the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ begins on Christmas and continues for a full 12 days!

If we can align our practices this time a little closer to the Church rather than the culture, we just may find some of the byproducts of a rightly ordered life: serenity, attention and receptivity of the gifts God wants to give.

When we enter into what the Church intends, our families will find surprising amounts of gratitude and joy in simple things and maybe even a deeper sense of the sacred. We can take a deep breath and continue our celebration with increased focus on the gifts of time, prayer and each other.

Rather than being a let-down among crumpled bows and discarded toys, the days following Christmas are deliberately given to us by the Church to enter deeply into the mystery of Christmas and its living extension within our own families. Here are some specifically family-friendly ideas to savor in the slower days after the big solemnity itself.

### Surprise for Mom

Attention, dads: a post-holiday mom's favorite Christmas gift just might be a much-deserved nap while you take the kids ice skating or out for pizza. Continue the gift-giving with a lovely, completely unexpected, surprise necklace on her pillow from Telos Art Shop ([TelosArtShop.com](http://TelosArtShop.com)).

### Movie-Night Fun

Let the chilly weather be an excuse to stay home (as if you needed one!) and enjoy a traditional Christmas movie like *The Bells of St. Mary's* or *Come to the Stable*. *It's a Wonderful Life* is a favorite for a reason. Little kids with shorter attention spans will find *A Charlie Brown Christmas* delightful, and parents might rediscover how much they enjoy it, too. Teenage boys will stick around when you put on *Joyeux Noel*, the true story of the impromptu truce between warring troops on a special Christmas Eve during the First World War.

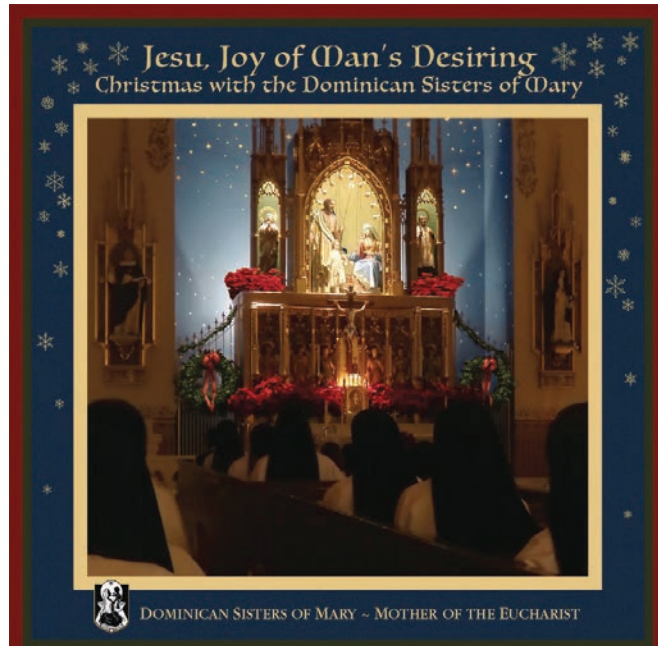
With things winding down after the holiday rush, there may even be time to watch a series over several nights. Announce a marathon movie week. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy or *The Chronicles of Narnia* are timeless classics. (All movies are available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).)

Each viewing night can include a new surprise to keep things fun: Have the kids take turns opening packages of soft throws, fuzzy socks or a canister of hot cocoa with fun candy stirrers.

Anticipate movie night by spending a leisurely afternoon stirring up popcorn balls or treats to enjoy during the show. If baking is stressful before the holidays, it can be wonder-



IMMACULATA GRACE ROSARIES



ful to discover how much fun it is when the pressure is over. Kids love to cook, and when they get your attention as an added ingredient, it is the perfect Christmas mix. A fun recipe can be found online at [Food.com](http://Food.com): <https://bit.ly/2CSQrV1>.

### Family Time

Too much TV? How about bringing back the tradition of reading aloud? Imagine the kids curled up while Mom and Dad take turns reading from *A Christmas Carol*. You don't have to be a great orator to enchant your children, and you might just be creating a new family tradition.

Set some surprises out at the breakfast table and let the kids unwrap a few books, puzzles, art supplies or board games you've intentionally saved for these 12 days. Spend the day enjoying quiet activities together. ChromaCat, a Catholic company (online at <https://ChromaCat.faiht>), sells exquisite greyscale mosaics for coloring — the budding artists in your family can create something frameable to gift a grandparent or neighbor and extend the season of gift-giving.

### Post-Christmas Get-Together

And maybe you couldn't squeeze much entertaining in before the big day, but there's a family somewhere that would love to be invited over for a low-key evening. Let the kids explore each other's new toys while the parents relax with a glass of wine and a tasty charcuterie board, reason alone to plan a post-Christmas get-together.

Here is a good recipe from [Food.com](http://Food.com): <https://bit.ly/2KyJNQv>.

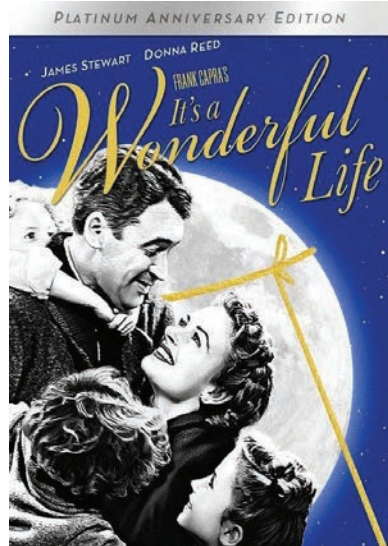
### Christmas Prayer

Keep the prayer coming, too! Plan an early-morning daily Mass as a family and make breakfast together when you come home.

Or how surprising would it be for each child to find a special new rosary wrapped on their dinner plate one night? Break the beads in with the Joyful Mysteries by the fire that evening. Lovely rosaries are available from Immaculata Grace Rosaries via <https://etsy.me/37tf1SK>. The shop does custom orders, too.

### Sacred Song

Don't stop the sacred music. We should be singing Christmas



songs for the entire season, even if the radios have cut the seasonal tunes off midnote on the 26th.

Let the sounds in your home echo the chorus in heaven. Try this chart-topping recording from the Dominicans of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring: Christmas With the Dominican Sisters of Mary*, available via EWTN Religious Catalogue, Item: 4125C.

### Memorable Reminiscing

Dig out the old family photo albums. Take the slow time after Christmas to talk about relatives from past generations the kids may never have met.

Tell family stories and share memories from your own Christmases as children. You may have visiting relatives who can chime in with their own versions of family lore. Such tales are treasures to children, little glimpses into your life and how you remember celebrating Christ's birth.

Our consumer culture continues after the holidays with even more sales, and it can be tempting to continue shopping, stocking up on deals for next year.

Swap shopping for hiking, sledding, building a snow fort in the backyard or another outdoor activity as a family — extend the festive fun with the special people in your life.

Overall, create space for the real stuff that matters: the very souls that Christ came to earth to save. Merry Christmas!

Claire Dwyer is editor of [SpiritualDirection.com](http://SpiritualDirection.com) and coordinates adult faith formation at her parish in Phoenix, where she lives with her husband and their six children.



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# Of Notre Dame de Paris and Gardens

## Interview About *The Girl and the Cathedral*

BY KATIE WARNER

“Presenting the history of Paris and Notre Dame in a children’s book is a delicate work,” says the author of the new book *The Girl and the Cathedral: The Story of Notre Dame de Paris*.

The news of the Notre Dame Cathedral fire in April 2019 stunned not only the Catholics who worshipped there, but people of all faiths around the globe. The Register spoke with author Nicolas Jeter about his response to the devastation, which came in the form of a children’s book.

What inspired you to write *The Girl and the Cathedral*?

I’ve spent a lot of time in France. I first moved there in 2006, about a year out of high school. I spent two years all over Paris and the northwest of the country, getting to know the people and appreciate the peaceful beauty of the history, architecture and language.

I’ve been back a couple more times since that first visit, and I’ve tried to keep up with the language by reading French literature, Victor Hugo in particular.

Also, even though I was born and raised in Texas, both sides of my family tree come through Louisiana, and before that, we were French. The point is: I have a relationship with the country that I value.

When Notre Dame burned earlier this year, my friend David Miles, founder of Bushel & Peck Publishing, called with the idea of coming up with a children’s book about Notre Dame. My affection for France is in some ways synonymous with my affection for Notre Dame.

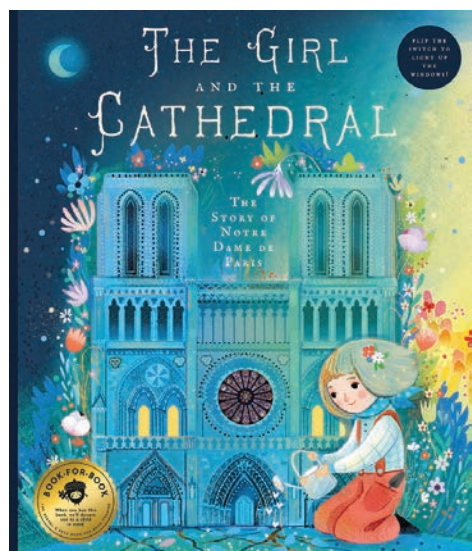
It is literally the first place I went to the morning my plane landed when I moved to France. I’ve spent hours just staring at the cathedral, trying to memorize it, feeling its oldness.

I’m not an expert by any stretch, but I certainly count myself among those who appreciate and love it.

And David pointed out that there don’t seem to be many books that 1) present the story of Notre Dame and 2) are aimed at children. So we started brainstorming how that might look, and I agreed to join the team as the author. I’ve always wanted to write.

I’ve always written, even as a small child, but I had never had an opportunity like this, and I was thrilled to be on board.

Why do you think the story of Notre Dame



has such wide appeal beyond the borders of Paris?

I think one direct cause is that Victor Hugo’s *Notre Dame de Paris* [better known in English as *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*] carried the story to the world, and we haven’t forgotten it.

Another, more broad, answer is that the history of France is the history of the world. Much of the art, literature, philosophy and political thought adopted throughout the world came out of France, so we share significant French symbols like Notre Dame.

As a religious symbol and site, Notre Dame has dominated the imagination and reverence of Christians of all denominations for centuries. It doesn’t hurt that Notre Dame is so beautiful.

Tell me about the narrative and why you chose to construct this tale through the perspective of a little girl.

We wanted the story to be sort of an ode to and imitation of [the children’s book] *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, in that the story takes place in a fantastical, ethereal setting where the narrator has an ongoing conversation with the main character.

So we have an unnamed narrator (who is never shown in the story), and he meets a little girl who lives on an island.

She plants a garden, and the garden is Paris, and in that garden she plants her greatest flower, Notre Dame de Paris.

The story is told through the garden, through its flowers, and through the changes and imagery that a garden can show. So the story is at the same time very much a fairy tale and very much an absolutely true story.

Like the boy in *The Little Prince*, the girl is sort of this timeless, undefined creature.

She watches over Paris.

I like this model because it enabled me to take the very real, very complicated, wonderful and often-horrendous history of Paris and



**BELOVED CHURCH.** Renovations are underway to reconstruct Notre Dame Cathedral to its former glory. The iconic cathedral is the subject of a forthcoming children’s book. Courtesy of author and publisher

“MY GARDEN IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER,” SAID THE LITTLE GIRL.

Notre Dame and place it in a very unreal, mythical setting that I, and the reader, can grasp in a short book.

Another inspiration is *Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Watterson.

His main character is a 6-year-old boy, but the boy, Calvin, doesn’t talk or think in the way we expect children to behave. I wanted the little girl in my story to be like that: a child, but also capable of expressing profound ideas in grown-up ways.

What is your favorite part about the book? What makes this book stand out from other children’s books?

I love the beginning, where the narrator meets the little girl.

I imagine it as such a peaceful setting: just the girl and the narrator and a cathedral.

I also love the moment where, as the cathedral is burning, we see that the spirits of people long dead have joined the people of Paris — their descendants — watching ... with them.

It’s a powerful image, and it’s the best representation of how I felt watching the cathe-

dral burn. I thought of my French ancestors.

I didn’t try to simplify the vocabulary or make it directly accessible to small children. In telling the story of Notre Dame, I didn’t think, “Can a kid understand this sentence?” I thought, “Is this a story a kid might want to know?” The priority was capturing a vision of who this little girl was.

She doesn’t speak like many children, and it’s something I think children will like.

Illustrator Sara Ugolotti is incredible. Her illustrations make this book. Every bit of enjoyment anyone will get out of this story is 100% packaged in her illustrations. I’m so thrilled she agreed to be a part of this.

What did you learn in the process of studying the history of Notre Dame that you found particularly striking?

I learned a lot of broad history.

For example, I didn’t realize the steeple (which burned, unfortunately) was a relatively recent addition.

Also, I did not know before how quickly the cathedral was built. I think it took about 200 years.

That just seems fast to me, given the technology of the day.

I learned that the original roof used wooden beams from a forest that no longer grows in France, of a species of tree that is no longer available; so when they reconstruct the roof, they won’t be able to use the same wood.

A lot of those things are broad-strokes looks at the history that I tried to communicate, if not explicitly show, in the story.

How can interested readers get their hands on a copy or get involved with the book launch? Tell me about the give-back effort you are doing alongside the book launch.

We had a successful Kickstarter run over the summer for those who wanted to get their hands on a preorder.

The book will be ready for bookshelves by April, and another round of preorders will start shortly before that. Once the book is sold, it will be available online at outlets like Amazon, and, of course, we are getting it on bookshelves.

For every book sold, Bushel & Peck Publishing donates a book to children who don’t have access to books.

It’s something fairly unique about the company that I think people can get excited about.

Katie Warner writes from Georgia.

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BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN

# Day-by-Day Look at Divine Mercy

**W**ith *Day by Day With St. Faustina: 365 Reflections*, author Susan Tassone takes a giant leap into the Divine Mercy devotion based on the writings in St. Faustina's diary.

Although this is Tassone's fourth book on St. Faustina — adding to *St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*, *St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Conversion of Sinners*, and *St. Faustina Prayer Book for Adoration* — the author has come up with yet another approach and perspective that can easily draw old and new readers into the Divine Mercy message.

The book offers a quote from St. Faustina and her diary for each day of the year, followed by a short "Reflection." Then a short prayer ties the quote and reflection together. Readers learn how to put that day's thought or revelation from St. Faustina into practice in daily life.

Throughout, Tassone offers catchy, clever descriptions.

The July 22 heading, quote and reflection focus on "A Niagara Falls of Mercy."

Prayer: "O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a font of mercy for us, I trust in You (diary, 84)."

Reflection: "We tend to think of a 'fount' as a quiet spring or delicate water fountain. But St. Faustina said Christ's Blood and water 'gushed' from His heart. In that sense, it's a Niagara Falls of love, a flooded river of grace, a tsunami of forgiveness. It can knock one over, sweep us away, and lift us higher and higher ... and closer and closer to Him."

Prayer: "Dear Jesus, I am at Your mercy. Thank God. Jesus, I trust in You."

Nov. 19 focuses on the theme of "Lovingly."

Quote: "[Jesus said to St. Faustina:] Daughter, I need sacrifice lovingly accomplished, because that alone has meaning for Me. Enormous indeed are the debts of the world which are due to Me; pure souls can pay them by their sacrifice, exercising mercy in spirit (diary, 1316)."

Reflection: "Why couldn't Jesus have just said, 'I need sacrifice accomplished'? Why did He have to include 'lovingly'? That pretty much eliminates doing it in a grumpy or sanctimonious way. We have to cover for others' 'debts.' It doesn't seem fair. But then again, thank God, God isn't fair. Imagine if He



**DAY BY DAY WITH ST. FAUSTINA: 365 REFLECTIONS**  
By Susan Tassone  
Sophia Press, 2019  
416 pages, \$16.95  
EWTN Item: 6520

gave us what we deserved!"

March 24 focuses on "Designated Sufferer."

The reflection begins: "In baseball terms it's the 'designated hitter.' The player who doesn't play a position, but instead fills in the batting order for the pitcher. St. Faustina offers to be the 'designated sufferer,' accepting what 'other souls have refused to accept.' Was that because she liked "great and protracted" suffering? Of course not."

And Aug. 5, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, focuses on "Apparent Obstacles": After the Blessed Virgin told Faustina, "I am Mother to you all, thanks to the unfathomable mercy of God. Most pleasing to Me is that soul which faithfully carries out the will of God. ... Be courageous. Do not fear apparent obstacles, but fix your gaze upon the Passion of My Son, and in this way you will be victorious (diary, 449)," comes the reflection. "What a comforting message of advice and encouragement Mary shares with her beloved daughter, or son. Do the will of God. Be brave. Don't be afraid of bumps in the road ... or mountains to climb. Remember Christ's Passion and you will win!"

"Winning," of course, means becoming a saint, and one of the book's aims is to help readers do so, by becoming "the person God is calling you to be as you grow in your love of Divine Mercy day by day."

**Insights From the Author**

A frequent guest on EWTN Live with Father Mitch Pacwa and EWTN's *Women of Grace*, and known as the "Purgatory Lady" for several books promoting prayers for

the holy souls, Tassone shared insights with the Register about the book. She noted that readers can use the book in a number of ways, including taking each daily quote from St. Faustina, the reflection and the prayer chronologically.

But no one is obligated to follow that course. Tassone mentioned that "you can open the book and read something in a bite-size piece, one nugget of wisdom at a time — a day-by-day dose of wisdom."

Or readers can "open to any page to be inspired. You can use this book as a daily devotional, to follow the liturgical seasons, too, or just pick it up and read as the Spirit leads you."

For instance, one month focuses on Lent and brings in lessons on sacrifice. Mary, of course, garners great attention for her month of May and "her relation to Faustina and us."

Highlighted, too, are feasts for Jesus, Mary and some saints.

Overall, Tassone didn't pick out "arbitrary quotes from the diary," but organized the quotes to help readers understand the "essential elements of the Divine Mercy message — trust, works of mercy, the image, the feast day, the chaplet and novena — but [also] the major themes" according to the "key themes repeated over and over again throughout the diary."

The key themes deal with Holy Communion, confession, adoration, praying for the dying, doing God's will, the love God has for us, the Trinity, devotion to our Blessed Mother, the value of suffering and sacrifice, and devotion to the holy souls in purgatory.

And Tassone fits everything together as a "solid answer for those asking how to apply Faustina's teaching and example in daily life."

She explained that the inspiration for this book came about in several ways. Among them, the Daughters of St. Paul informed her that people came into their stores sharing how they've read the diary, but "they don't know what to do with it." The Divine Mercy Shrine staff also told her that people were asking for a "day-by-day book" focusing on St. Faustina's diary.

**Meant for Today's World**

*Day by Day With St. Faustina* answers those needs and is especially relevant today.

"St. Faustina's message was forward-thinking and maybe intended

**"ST. FAUSTINA GIVES US A PATH TO FOLLOW. SHE SAYS: FOLLOW GOD'S WILL. BE MERCIFUL WITH YOURSELF AND OTHERS. FORGIVE YOURSELF AND OTHERS. SHARE DISAGREEMENTS WITHOUT BECOMING DISAGREEABLE. WE CAN ALL TURN TO THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE FOR ADVICE AND COMFORT."**  
— AUTHOR SUSAN TASSONE

more for our time," Tassone emphasized. "Her message seems perfectly suited to the issues roiling our country. So many of us are angry, sadly often with people we love, because they do not see the world as we want them to see it. St. Faustina gives us a path to follow. She says: Follow God's will. Be merciful with yourself and others. Forgive yourself and others. Share dis-

agreements without becoming disagreeable. We can all turn to the Divine Mercy message for advice and comfort."

"The Divine Mercy message is the same as it was in St. Faustina's time," Tassone added. "It applies to us now more than ever. The Lord wants to remind us of his infinite mercy and love. He told Faustina these are his greatest attributes."

She pointed out a favorite quote from Faustina: "When I received Holy Communion, I said to Him, 'Jesus, I thought about You so many times last night,' and Jesus answered me, 'And I thought of you before I called you into being.' 'Jesus, in what way were You thinking about me?' 'In terms of admitting you to My eternal happiness'" (diary, 1292).

Faustina "invites us to learn how to live the message of conversion, to avoid purgatory and to become more faithful in praying for others, living and deceased," Tassone explained. Tassone wanted the book to "show how to apply these fundamentals in your life" through the diary's "major teachings, insights and revelations," and Faustina's encouraging us "to do God's

will, fulfill our mission on earth, and trust in him."

**Spiritual Growth**

As Tassone explained, overall, this book is designed to help readers "grow closer to Christ in the Eucharist; develop a stronger, deeper daily prayer life with the help of the angels and saints; get along better with others; trust God more; let the realities of heaven, hell and purgatory influence your choices now; love the Blessed Mother even more, and let her love draw you closer to her Son; use your suffering to help others, including souls in purgatory; understand and take advantage of the spiritual powerhouse that is the sacrament of reconciliation; and become a person of mercy" by learning from St. Faustina.

Speaking of mercy, Tassone collected all the promises of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, that he made connected with the devotions in the book's first appendix. It's a treasure of comfort, encouragement and inspiration.

For this author, her hope and prayer is that readers "take St. Faustina's message to heart as we read it, reflect on it, pray it, and live it, day by day, with St. Faustina."

Joseph Pronechen is a Register staff writer. Read more at [NCRRegister.com](http://NCRRegister.com).

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Outrageous verdict! David Daleiden is slapped with a multi-million dollar judgment in a phony trial!

Dear National Catholic Register Reader,

The verdict for David Daleiden is in, and it couldn't be worse. David was slapped with a multi-million dollar judgment. You can be sure the Planned Parenthood abortionists popped champagne corks to celebrate.

Let me briefly introduce myself to you. I'm attorney Tom Brejcha, the founder and president of the Chicago-based Thomas More Society, the group that's defending David. For over 20 years my organization has defended the defenders of innocent babies.

As you may recall, the Thomas More Society successfully defended the legendary Joe Scheidler, known as the father of pro-life activism. When the abortionists filed a nasty, unjust "racketeering" lawsuit against Joe, we fought hard and ultimately won a unanimous victory for him in the U.S. Supreme Court. That's why David Daleiden asked my organization to help defend him.

As you know, a trial judge is supposed to be neutral, like a baseball umpire calling balls and strikes. But David's trial couldn't have been more slanted against him. Incredibly, the judge had even served on the board of a group that gave Planned Parenthood (the plaintiff) free office space!

Because of the judge's connection to Planned Parenthood, he should've recused himself. But he stubbornly refused to do so—even after we documented his connection to Planned Parenthood and filed a motion for his recusal for bias!

The judge clearly wanted to hammer David, and he did. David was entitled to a robust defense based on the First Amendment, which gives him the freedom to conduct undercover journalism to document and expose crimes.

Indeed, David uncovered and documented Planned Parenthood's flagrant violation of federal and state laws, even acts of infanticide—the killing of a baby when it's outside the mother's body—under the guise of "stem cell research." David reported these crimes to law enforcement authorities and to Congress.

## Judge muzzles David's defense

Believe it or not, the judge ruled a First Amendment defense out of bounds! This restriction forced us to defend David with one hand tied behind our backs, and the judge found other ways to hamper the defense:

- The judge excluded crucial defense witnesses from the stand.
- He censored embarrassing facts for Planned Parenthood.
- He ruled Planned Parenthood's trafficking in aborted babies' body parts irrelevant.
- He ruled Planned Parenthood's profits from illegally selling aborted babies' body parts irrelevant.
- He ruled Planned Parenthood's violations of federal law irrelevant.



**Thirty-year-old David Daleiden, America's #1 undercover pro-life journalist, faced a gut-wrenching trial against Planned Parenthood. The verdict is in, and it's the worst possible news: an unjust multi-million dollar judgment against David. Incredibly, the judge served on the board of a group that gave Planned Parenthood (the plaintiff) free office space, yet he stubbornly refused to recuse himself! Instead, the biased judge prevented David's attorneys from giving him a First Amendment defense and committed many other reversible errors in slanting the trial. These errors can and must be reversed on appeal! In David's extreme legal emergency, he depends on friends like you to help him mount an appeal. He says, "Please send your tax-deductible gift to the Chicago-based Thomas More Society."**

- He shut down our cross-examination of a Planned Parenthood abortionist.

The judge committed other egregious errors as well. Most horrific were his slanted jury instructions, which put the jurors in a straitjacket with no wiggle room to come back with a verdict for David.

Thus, the judge stacked the deck in favor of Planned Parenthood, and we suffered through a long trial only to have it decided on the basis of "heads they win, tails we lose." We did, however, build up a strong record for appeal.

Indeed, we *must* appeal, just as I appealed the unjust verdict against the great pro-life pioneer Joe Scheidler over 20 years ago after a similarly slanted trial. I knew David hardly had a chance for justice at trial. We must seek justice in a higher court.

We got justice for Joe Scheidler on appeal, and we aim to get justice for David, who depends on the prayerful and financial help of friends like you to mount an appeal. Please pray, and if possible rush an emergency gift for David's appeal.

As if the unjust multi-million dollar judgment weren't bad enough, David has also been falsely charged with felonies in California for making undercover videos that expose crimes.

At the preliminary hearing in California state court regarding the false felony charges, we presented the shocking facts that David uncovered.

## Vivisectioning living aborted babies!

You see, Dr. Theresa Deisher, Ph.D., an expert in biology who has knowledge of the aborted babies' parts racket, told David a shocking detail about the fetal hearts used in a university study. She said, "The most horrific thing is that some of the babies had to have beating hearts when they were harvested."

Dr. Deisher has sworn that fetal hearts for university researchers could *only* have been extracted outside the womb from babies who were aborted alive. She further explained that when the heart runs out of energy and stops, death occurs, and there's no way to re-start the heart.

By contrast, when a beating heart is cut out of a rib cage the heart can be connected to a Langendorff perfusion device and kept beating outside the body, Dr. Deisher stated. University researchers required fetal hearts that could be kept beating with this perfusion device. Dead hearts would've been useless. The researchers obtained their fetal hearts from a broker that had bought them from a Planned Parenthood abortion center.

David also found out that fetal researchers in a different study had perfused an intact aborted baby in an artificial womb to see how long they could keep the baby alive! This shocked David so much he had nightmares for a week. It confirmed his resolve to fully in-

vestigate and expose the fetal parts racket so this barbarity could be stopped once and for all.

David's exposé angered and embarrassed the abortionists so much that they resolved to destroy him in court. They already found a friendly judge who cooperated with them in stomping David in federal court—a verdict that must be appealed!—and they're also determined to convict David of false felony charges in state court.

If the abortionists succeed, David could be locked behind bars in a 4.5-foot by 11-foot cell with a sink, a bed, and a toilet in San Quentin Penitentiary. To prevent that gross injustice we're giving him the most vigorous defense possible.

## Please support David's legal defense now!

Even though David's pro-life attorneys charge the Thomas More Society a reduced rate, the cost of mounting an appeal in federal court and defending David in state court could easily exceed a half million dollars over the next several months. That's a lot of money, but it's only a fraction of what the abortionists are paying to destroy David. You can't put a price tag on justice. Justice is beyond price.

Victory for David is a must! But victory will come neither quickly, nor easily, nor cheaply. However, I can assure you that I won't quit. I've assembled a winning legal defense team of seasoned pro-life attorneys who can beat the abortion lawyers—even if we have to go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to do

it. The only thing that can stop us is shortness of funds.

I'm praying that two heroes will step forward with a tax-deductible sacrifice of \$10,000 or more. Could you consider being one of those heroes? If not, please join me in praying that someone else will step forward with a gift like that.

Could you consider making a gift of \$1,000, \$2,500, or \$5,000? The Thomas More Society needs gifts in that range to win a victory for David.

We also need many gifts of \$500, \$250, or \$100—and even more gifts of \$50, \$35, or whatever you can sacrifice. No gift is too large, and no gift is too small. Please dig deep and send the biggest sacrifice you can. Your gift will help us defend not only David Daleiden but other innocent pro-lifers who depend on the Thomas More Society for free legal help.

Every sacrifice is precious to the Lord—even a widow's mite, as the Gospel says. Please rush your tax-deductible gift now, made payable to the Thomas More Society.

Very truly yours,

*Tom Brejcha*  
Tom Brejcha, attorney  
Founder and President  
Thomas More Society

P.S. The abortionists hope you'll ignore this crisis appeal. They hope David Daleiden's defense team will run out of funds so they can win their lawsuits by default and ruin David. Please don't let that happen. Please pray for David's victory in this legal emergency, and mail your sacrificial gift right now while the reply coupon is at hand.



**David Bereit, the founder of 40 Days for Life, says, "America's No. 1 pro-life attorney, Tom Brejcha, defends innocent pro-lifers who are falsely arrested or harassed. Please rush a tax-deductible gift to Tom's organization, the Chicago-based Thomas More Society, to support the legal defense of pro-life hero David Daleiden."**

## REPLY COUPON

**Yes!** I want to help David Daleiden solve this unprecedented legal crisis! Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift for his defense, payable to the Thomas More Society, to help Tom Brejcha defend David and other innocent pro-lifers:

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