

Download The Franciscan Heart Of Thomas Merton A New Look At The Spiritual Inspiration Of His Life Thought And Writing

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The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton-Daniel P. Horan 2014-09-22 Daniel Horan, O.F.M., popular author of *Dating God* and other books on Franciscan themes—and expert on the spirituality of Thomas Merton—masterfully presents the untold story of how the most popular saint in Christian history inspired the most popular spiritual writer of the twentieth century, and how together they can inspire a new generation of Christians. Millions of Christians and non-Christians look to Thomas Merton for spiritual wisdom and guidance, but to whom did Merton look? In *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*, Franciscan friar and author Daniel Horan shows how, both before and after he became a Trappist monk, Merton's life was shaped by his love for St. Francis and for the Franciscan spiritual and intellectual tradition. Given recent renewed interest in St. Francis, this timely resource is both informative and practical, revealing a previously hidden side of Merton that will inspire a new generation of Christians to live richer, deeper, and more justice-minded lives of faith.

Dating God-Daniel P. Horan 2012-01-01 What does a Franciscan friar know about dating? While officially off the market now, Dan Horan had his share of relationships in high school and college enough to know the ins and outs of dating, the high of first falling in love, and the low of falling out of love. He knows what it is like to break a heart and to experience the pain of heartbreak. He knows what the in-between time is like of planning, fun, fights, jealousy, bliss, connection, misunderstanding, and the rest. The journey to God, says Br. Dan, is a lot like dating. You have to get to know God in the same way and in a similar process as you would with someone you date, when you want to explore another person's truest self.

The Wounded Heart of Thomas Merton-Robert G. Waldron 2014-05-14 Robert Waldron's brief biography of Thomas Merton examines and exposes a man who lived a deeply spiritual life, yes, but also a deeply conflicted one as well. By the use of Jungian theory and archetypes, Waldron explores all of the major Merton works (e.g., *Seven Storey Mountain*, *The Sign of Jonas*, *The Collected Poems*, *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*), but especially all of the many volumes of Merton's private diaries, and discovers a man, a soul struggling to live "la vita nuova" in the monastery while being drawn by various sirens out of it. Edgy, chancy, and at times speculative, Waldron penetrates Merton's sometimes dense poetry and prose to discover or uncover what was wanting in Merton's soul his desire for his own hermitage; his longing for the nurse he fell in love with; his desire perhaps to establish an entirely new monastic foundation. Merton emerges less a saint than a sinner who never stopped trying to become a saint by "becoming who he really was."

God Is Not Fair, and Other Reasons for Gratitude-Daniel P. Horan 2020-01-08 Author, Franciscan friar, and popular retreat leader Dan Horan puts Christian dilemmas into a new light in this new book of thoughtful reflections. As Paul made clear to the Corinthians two thousand years ago, being a Christian

can mean appearing out-of-step at times. This is because a Christian's priorities aren't measured by the culture, but according to the reign of God that Jesus preached and modeled. In this collection of essays, Horan demonstrates that the Christian life is most often focused on the counterintuitive and gratuitous foolishness of God's love revealed in the healing of the broken and brokenhearted, forgiving the unforgiveable, and loving the unlovable. Like Jesus's early followers, the ethical implications of Jesus's words and deeds for those of us who would follow him are not always what's expected of us. But the risk of appearing foolish never stopped "God's Fool," St. Francis of Assisi, from embracing the Gospel as best he could, protesting the injustices of certain social systems, and letting nothing get in the way of his relationship with others. *God Is Not Fair and Other Reasons for Gratitude* addresses what it means to follow Christ in the modern world, opens up the Gospels to explore what Jesus has to say to our situations and predicaments, and delves into what it means to faithfully live by vows—counterculturally—today. *When the Trees Say Nothing*-Thomas Merton 2003-01-01 First published in 2003 and now available in paperback to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Thomas Merton's birth, *When the Trees Say Nothing* has sold more than 60,000 copies and continually inspires readers with its unique collection of Merton's luminous writings on nature, arranged for reflection and meditation. Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk, author, poet, social commentator, and perhaps the most influential and widely published spiritual writer of the twentieth century. In *When the Trees Say Nothing*, editor Kathleen Deignan sheds new light on Merton by focusing on a neglected theme of his writing: the natural world as a manifestation of the divine. Drawing from Merton's voluminous writing on nature, Deignan has thematically assembled a collection of lucid, poetic reflections. Chapters on the four elements, the seasons, the Earth and its creatures, and the sun, moon, and stars provide brief passages from his diverse works that reveal the presence of God in creation.

A Book of Hours-Thomas Merton 2007-03-01 Thomas Merton was the most popular proponent of the Christian contemplative tradition in the twentieth century. Now, for the first time, some of his most lyrical and prayerful writings have been arranged into *A Book of Hours*, a rich resource for daily prayer and contemplation that imitates the increasingly popular ancient monastic practice of "praying the hours." Editor Kathleen Deignan mined Merton's voluminous writings, arranging prayers for Dawn, Day, Dusk, and Dark for each of the days of the week. *A Book of Hours* allows for a slice of monastic contemplation in the midst of hectic modern life, with psalms, prayers, readings, and reflections.

Swimming in the Sun-Albert Haase 1992-12-12 Winner of a Catholic Book Award from the Catholic Press Association of the United States, "Swimming in the Sun" turns to two great spiritual masters to illustrate the central themes of the Lord's Prayer. In this "handbook" to the spiritual life, Franciscan Albert Haase writes that Francis's life challenges us to renounce the superficial and superfluous in our lives, to identify more deeply with the poor and powerless of society, and to have a profound, reverent respect for all creation. Merton's life, the author says, has become a vehicle for self-discovery for many contemporary readers. Included are questions for reflection.

What I Am Living For-James Martin S.J. 2018-03-16 "If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, and ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for."—Thomas Merton Some of today's most popular spiritual writers—including Rev. James Martin, S.J.; Bishop Robert Barron; Robert Ellsberg; Rev. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.; and Kaya Oakes—explore the meaning of life and what we live for using Thomas Merton's life and writings as a guide. In his address before the US Congress, Pope Francis praised Merton as one of four exemplary Americans. This was no surprise to the thousands who already know and appreciate the twentieth-century monk, but there were many listening that day who still have no idea who Merton is. *What I Am Living For* offers readers new to Merton, as well as longtime enthusiasts, an opportunity to see how the influential twentieth-century monk and writer continues to encourage the awakening of faith in the twenty-first century. The book is in two parts. Each contributor to part one focuses on an aspect of the spiritual life that is of vital importance today and on which Merton made a profound impact. These include: Martin—Finding who God intends you to be Ellsberg—The spiritual need for solitude and stability Oakes—The importance of coming to terms with our sexuality, whether married, single, or celibate Horan—The importance of dialogue with God, culture, society, and people of other faiths Part two features shorter, often more personal reflections on the future of faith, the life and teachings of Merton, and what he still says to anyone who seeks a relationship with God. Contributors include such well-known writers as Barron; Sue Monk Kidd; Pico Iyer; Paula Huston; Ilia Delio, O.F.M.; Paul Quenon, O.C.S.O.; and Sylvia Boorstein.

Reading, Praying, Living Pope Francis's Rejoice and Be Glad-Daniel P Horan 2019-01-07 Drawing on the

wisdom of the Second Vatican Council's landmark teaching on the universal call to holiness, Pope Francis addresses all Christian women and men in his latest apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* and invites them to embrace fully their baptismal call to live the Gospel. Fr. Horan guides readers through Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation with helpful commentary, additional context, and expert insight. Each chapter includes suggestions for prayer and reflections questions, which makes *Reading, Praying, Living Pope Francis's Rejoice and Be Glad* an ideal resource for adults, students, and faith formation groups interested in learning more about this teaching and exploring their own spirituality. This is the most extensive and helpful commentary on *Gaudete et Exsultate* available anywhere. It does not include the full text of the apostolic exhortation.

The Spirit of Simplicity-Jean-Baptiste Chautard 2017-11-10 Few people have ever seen or heard of *The Spirit of Simplicity*: it has been hidden for almost seventy years after quietly being published by the Abbey of Gethsemani in 1948. Anonymously translated and annotated by a young monk named Thomas Merton, the book's author—who also is not mentioned by name in the original edition—is Jean-Baptiste Chautard, the famous French Cistercian whose only other book, *The Soul of the Apostolate*, has been a favorite of modern saints and popes, including Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Every generation struggles with the question of simplicity. In the history of our faith, there have been no more eloquent voices calling us back to simplicity than the monks of the Cistercian Order, from Bernard of Clairvaux to Chautard to Merton—all of whom contribute to this powerful book. Merton surrounds Chautard's text with his own remarks on simplicity, translations of classic texts by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and commentary that allows readers to pursue the themes of simplicity in their own lives. "Only a very inadequate idea of exterior simplicity can be arrived at if we do not trace it back to its true source: interior simplicity. Without this, our resolution to practice exterior simplicity would be without light, without love ...," Chautard wrote at the beginning of the book. He is writing to his fellow Cistercians, but he might as well be speaking to twenty-first century Christians. He goes on to lay out the best disciplines that a monk—or anyone—might practice to find the elusive simplicity, with quotations from St. Benedict, St. Bernard, and other pillars of monastic life and spirituality. A dozen photographs of Cistercian architecture illustrate how principles of simplicity are incorporated into Cistercian daily life. In Part 2, Merton opens up the teachings of St. Bernard, a great mystic and doctor of the Church, offering excerpts from St. Bernard's writings on the original simplicity in the Garden of Eden, the difficulty of intellectual simplicity, the simplicity of the will (obedience), and other kindred topics. Merton also offers personal reflections from the perspective of one who had recently exchanged an active life in pursuit of worldly things for the solitude of a monk.

The Seven Storey Mountain-Thomas Merton 2009 The complete and unedited edition of Thomas Merton's famous autobiography, one of the greatest works of spiritual pilgrimage ever written.

Postmodernity and Univocity-Daniel P. Horan O.F.M. 2014-12-01 Nearly twenty-five years ago, John Milbank inaugurated Radical Orthodoxy, one of the most significant and influential theological movements of the last two decades. In Milbank's *Theology and Social Theory*, he constructed a sweeping theological genealogy of the origins of modernity and the emergence of the secular, counterposed by a robust retrieval of traditional orthodoxy as the critical philosophical and theological mode of being in the postmodern world. That genealogy turns upon a critical point—the work of John Duns Scotus as the starting point of modernity and progenitor of a raft of philosophical and theological ills that have prevailed since. Milbank's account has been disseminated proliferously through Radical Orthodoxy and even beyond and is largely uncontested in contemporary theology. The present volume conducts a comprehensive examination and critical analysis of Radical Orthodoxy's use and interpretation of John Duns Scotus. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M. offers a substantial challenge to the narrative of Radical Orthodoxy's idiosyncratic take on Scotus and his role in ushering in the philosophical age of the modern. This volume not only corrects the received account of Scotus but opens a constructive way forward toward a positive assessment and appropriation of Scotus's work for contemporary theology.

Uncommon Prayer-Michael Plekon 2016-08-26 In *Uncommon Prayer: Prayer in Everyday Experience*, Michael Plekon wants to change our minds on what constitutes prayer. In doing so, he makes a theological claim that commonplace aspects of the Christian life are best understood as prayer, whereby encouraging us to see that everyday life carries religious import; prayer and the religious life are not restricted to special places and times, but are open to all believers at all times. Plekon examines the works of diverse authors, including many who have challenged the status quo of institutional churches. He asks us to listen to what poets, writers, activists, and others tell us about how they pray at work and at home, with colleagues, family, and friends, in all the experiences of life, from joy to suffering, sadness to hope. Among them are Sarah Coakley, Rowan Williams, Heather Havrilesky, Sara Miles, Thomas Merton, Mary Oliver,

Christian Wiman, Mary Karr, Barbara Brown Taylor, Dorothy Day, Maria Skobtsova, Paul Evdokimov, Seraphim of Sarov, and Richard Rohr. Plekon argues that prayer encompasses a much wider variety of activity than formal and liturgical prayers and that, by recognizing such aspects of prayer, the believer is made more receptive to transformative aspects of prayerful attitudes.

Care for Creation-Ilia Delio 2008 Care for Creation takes both a theological and practical approach to developing a Franciscan spirituality of the earth. Four sections focus on: the relationship between the earth as God's creation and Jesus as the Incarnation of God; the implication of Francis' Cantic of Creation for our time; the role of contemplative prayer as a key to discovering Francis' awe and respect for creation; and conversion in the Franciscan tradition.

Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy-Thomas E. Malewitz 2020-07-08 Adolescence can be best summarized as a time of authenticity, passion, and advocacy. As adolescents start maturing, on a life journey that leads them away from dependence on their parents to becoming an independent adult, they often seek out honest and transparent mentors to learn from and trust for wisdom and guidance. Although Thomas Merton, the celebrated spiritual author and Cistercian monk, is better remembered for his writings on ecumenism, nonviolence, and advocacy, he also had several documented correspondences with adolescents throughout his life. By examining these artifacts, it is clear that Thomas Merton had great insight into the spiritual needs and challenges of adolescents. Throughout his life, Merton's authentic struggles often parallel the searching nature that defines adolescent spirituality. Through scholarship and practice this book will explore how the life and writings of Thomas Merton may serve as a guide and bridge for ministers of adolescents, and will offer some practical suggestions for ministers, educators, and parents on topics affecting contemporary adolescents, through the lens of Thomas Merton's life and writings.

Following Francis-Susan Pitchford 2006-05-01 Discover the story of a man who lived in the Italian town of Assisi nearly 800 years ago—and still offers inspiration to millions today. In a small town in Italy, in the late twelfth century, a wealthy silk merchant and his wife welcomed a baby boy. Their son lived a life of wealth and worldly pleasure, until he found himself called to something else—a life of service, poverty, charity, celebration, and song. This strange man defied every norm of his society, choosing instead to follow his own heart. And he changed the world. In *Following Francis*, Susan Pitchford tells the inspiring, surprising, and intriguing story of Francis of Assisi, the man who started the Franciscan order of the Catholic Church. Exploring both the history of the man and the history of his followers, and weaving in her personal experience as a Third Order Franciscan, Pitchford takes a close look at a system of belief that is paradoxically devoted to a simple life and to open and joyful celebration, discovering along the way how all modern individuals, whether in a religious profession or not, can live a fuller life.

Catholicity and Emerging Personhood-Daniel P. Horan 2019 An exploration of the meaning and identity of the human person in light of a renewed theology of creation, the ongoing discoveries of evolution and natural sciences, and newly appropriated resources in the theological tradition.

Franciscan Friars: Coast to Coast-Jack Clark Robinson 2019-11-11 Franciscan friars entered the religious landscape of the United States in 1539 and remained part of colonial history in Georgia, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, California, and Louisiana until they were no longer colonies. A Franciscan mission revival began in the 1840s when groups of Franciscan friars arrived with Irish, German, Polish, Italian, and eastern European immigrants. In the 20th century, the friars began to accompany Latin American and Vietnamese immigrants. The number of Franciscan friars peaked in the United States in the 1960s. In the midst of that boom, they engaged in such issues as civil rights and the changes that came to the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council. Despite aging and declining numbers in the last 50 years, the Franciscan friars remain active. Franciscans were—and still are—woven deep into the fabric of US history, and in their archives, they have the pictures to prove it. Images of work with Native Americans, in soup kitchens, with social service agencies, and in parishes, schools, and universities provide a compelling look at this little-known part of US history.

The Way of Chuang Tzu-Zhuangzi 1969 Free renderings of selections from the works of Chuang-tzū, taken from various translations.

Franciscans and the Protestant Revolution in England-Francis Borgia Steck 1920

All God's Creatures-Daniel P. Horan 2020-05-15 After a careful examination of the rise and fall of the Stewardship Model of creation, Daniel Horan identifies and engages scriptural, theological, and philosophical resources in the Christian tradition to construct a nonanthropocentric, postcolonial, and Franciscan theology of creation imagined in terms of planetarity.

Warwickshire Parish Registers: The Franciscan register. Part II, Marriage registers- 1906

The Last Words of Jesus-Daniel P. Horan 2013 Much has been written on the last words of Jesus, the traditional phrases taken from Scripture that depict the final moments of Jesus's life as he dies on the cross. In this new take on the last words, author Dan Horan brings a fresh perspective to this time-honored meditation as he challenges readers to look at their lives through the lens of Jesus's suffering and death. Yet interlaced with suffering, the focus throughout is on the immense love of God for human beings, shown in the gift of Jesus, God made flesh. In his preface, Horan writes: "In a world that remains irrevocably shaped by the suffering of the human condition, the misunderstanding between groups and cultures symbolized by the horrific events of September 11, we need to hear Christ's words anew." He gives us a different look into these words by drawing on works by other noted scholars and spiritual writers, then fashioning a view of these phrases that's contemporary and thought-provoking. An ideal Lenten companion, especially during Holy Week, *The Last Words of Jesus* will also serve as a useful meditation throughout the year on the deep love Jesus bore for us in taking on the human condition.

The Sacred Heart for Lent-Thomas D. Williams 2011 *Journey through Lent with the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart for Lent: Daily Meditations* contains an entry for each day of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. The simple meditations, excerpted from Fr. Williams popular *A Heart Like His*, are meant to deepen a Christians journey through Lent by learning to know Christs heart more intimately, love him more profoundly, and imitate him more perfectly

Thomas Merton's Gethsemani-Monica Weis 2015-01-13 For twenty-seven years, renowned and beloved monk Thomas Merton (1915-1968) belonged to Our Lady of Gethsemani, a Trappist monastery established in 1848 amid the hills and valleys near Bardstown, Kentucky. In *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani*, dramatic black-and-white photographs by Harry L. Hinkle and artful text by Merton scholar Monica Weis converge in a unique experience for lovers of Merton. Hinkle was allowed unprecedented access to many areas inside the monastery and on its grounds that are generally restricted. His photographs invite the reader to experience the various knobs, lakes, woods, and hermitages Merton sought out for times of solitude and contemplation and for reading and writing. These unique images, each accompanied by a passage from Merton's writings, evoke personal reflection and a deeper understanding of how and why Merton came to recognize himself as a part of his Kentucky landscape. Woven throughout the book, Weis's text explores Merton's fascination with nature not only at Gethsemani, but during his early childhood, throughout his spiritual conversion to Roman Catholicism, and while a member of the Trappist community. She examines how Merton's lifelong interaction with nature subtly revealed and informed his profound spiritual experiences and his writing about contemplation. *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani* replicates Merton's path on his solitary hikes in the woods and conveys the wonder of the landscapes that inspired him.

Life and Holiness-Thomas Merton 1963 This is intended to be a very simple book, an elementary treatment of a few basic ideas in Christian spirituality. Hence it should be useful to any Christian, and indeed to anyone who wants to acquaint himself with some principles of the interior life as it is understood in the Catholic Church. Nothing is here said of such subjects as "contemplation" or even "mental prayer." And yet the book emphasizes what is at once the most common and the most mysterious aspect in the Christian life: grace, the power and the light of God in us, purifying our hearts, transforming us in Christ, making us true sons of God, enabling us to act in the world as his instruments for the good of all men and for his glory. This is therefore a meditation on some fundamental themes appropriate to the active life. It must be said at once that the active life is essential to every Christian. Clearly the active life must mean more than the life which is led in religious institutes of men and women who teach, care for the sick, and so on. (When one is talking of the "active life" as opposed to the "contemplative life," this is the usual reference.) Here action is not looked at in opposition to contemplation, but as an expression of charity and as a necessary consequence of union with God by baptism.

Thomas Merton - Spiritual Direction and Meditation-Thomas Merton 2013-04-16 This early work by Anglo-American Catholic writer Thomas Merton is both expensive and hard to find in its first edition. It contains a wealth of information on spiritual direction and how to learn the art of meditation. This fascinating work is thoroughly recommended for anyone with an interest in spiritual life. Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

The Sign of Jonas-Thomas Merton 2002-11-18 This diary of a monastic life is "a continuation of *The Seven Storey Mountain* . . . Astonishing" (Commonweal). Chronicling six years of Thomas Merton's life in a Trappist monastery, *The Sign of Jonas* takes us through his day-to-day experiences at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, where he lived in silence and prayer for much of his life. Concluding with the account of Merton's ordination as a priest, this diary documents his growing acceptance of his vocation—and the

greater meaning he found within his private world of contemplation. "This book is made unmistakably real and almost, at times, unbearably poignant by the fact that the exuberance of youth so often wells up through it with rapture, impatience, and even bluster." —TheNew York Times "A stirring book—the most readable and on the whole, most illuminating of the author's writings." —Catholic World

A Franciscan View of the Spiritual and Religious Life-Saint Cardinal Bonaventure, CA 1217-1 2016-08-26

This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

Merton's Palace of Nowhere-James Finley 2018-02-02 For forty years, James Finley's Merton's Palace of Nowhere has been the standard text for exploring, reflecting on, and understanding the rich vein of Thomas Merton's thought. Spiritual identity is the quest to know who we are, to find meaning, to overcome that sense of "Is this all there is?" Merton's message cuts to the heart of this universal quest, and Finley illuminates that message as no one else can. As a young man of eighteen, Finley left home for an unlikely destination: the Abbey of Gethsemani, where Thomas Merton lived as a contemplative. Finley stayed at the monastery for six maturing years and later wrote this Merton's Palace of Nowhere in order to share a taste of what he had learned on his spiritual journey under the guidance of one of the great religious figures of our time. At the heart of the quest for spiritual identity are Merton's illuminating insights—leading from an awareness of the false and illusory self to a realization of the true self. Dog-eared, tattered, underlined copies of this book are found on the bookshelves of retreat centers, parish libraries, and the homes of spiritual seekers everywhere. This anniversary edition brings a classic to a new generation and includes a new preface by Finley.

No Man is an Island-Thomas Merton 2005-04 This volume is a stimulating series of spiritual reflections which will prove helpful for all struggling to find the meaning of human existence and to live the richest, fullest and noblest life. --Chicago Tribune

Sophia-Christopher Pramuk 2009-10-01 While numerous studies have celebrated Thomas Merton's witness as an interfaith pioneer, poet, and peacemaker, there have been few systematic treatments of his Christology as such, and no sustained exploration to date of his relationship to the Russian Sophia" tradition. This book looks to Thomas Merton as a "classic" theologian of the Christian tradition from East to West, and offers an interpretation of his mature Christology, with special attention to his remarkable prose poem of 1962, Hagia Sophia. Bringing Merton's mystical-prophetic Vision fully into dialogue with contemporary Christology, Russian sophiology, and Zen, as well as figures such as John Henry Newman and Abraham Joshua Heschel, the author carefully but boldly builds the case that Sophia, the same theological eros that animated Merton's religious imagination in a period of tremendous fragmentation and violence, might infuse new vitality into our own. A study of uncommon depth and scope, inspired throughout by Merton's extraordinary catholicity. Christopher Pramuk, PhD, is assistant professor of theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is the author of two books and numerous essays, and the recipient of the Catholic Theological Society of America's 2009 Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award. "

Wandering in Darkness-Eleonore Stump 2012-09-13 Only the most naïve or tendentious among us would deny the extent and intensity of suffering in the world. Can one hold, consistently with the common view of suffering in the world, that there is an omniscient, omnipotent, perfectly good God? This book argues that one can. Wandering in Darkness first presents the moral psychology and value theory within which one typical traditional theodicy, namely, that of Thomas Aquinas, is embedded. It explicates Aquinas's account of the good for human beings, including the nature of love and union among persons. Eleonore Stump also makes use of developments in neurobiology and developmental psychology to illuminate the nature of such union. Stump then turns to an examination of narratives. In a methodological section focused on epistemological issues, the book uses recent research involving autism spectrum disorder to argue that some philosophical problems are best considered in the context of narratives. Using the methodology argued for, the book gives detailed, innovative exegeses of the stories of Job, Samson,

Abraham and Isaac, and Mary of Bethany. In the context of these stories and against the backdrop of Aquinas's other views, Stump presents Aquinas's own theodicy, and shows that Aquinas's theodicy gives a powerful explanation for God's allowing suffering. She concludes by arguing that this explanation constitutes a consistent and cogent defense for the problem of suffering.

What Is Contemplation?-Thomas Merton 2015-11-06 There are so many Christians who do not appreciate the magnificent dignity of their vocation to sanctity, to the knowledge, love and service of God. There are so many Christians who do not realize what possibilities God has placed in the life of Christian perfection — what possibilities for joy in the knowledge and love of Him. There are so many Christians who have practically no idea of the immense love of God for them, and of the power of that Love to do them good, to bring them happiness. Why do we think of the gift of contemplation, infused contemplation, mystical prayer, as something essentially strange and esoteric reserved for a small class of almost unnatural beings and prohibited to everyone else? It is perhaps because we have forgotten that contemplation is the work of the Holy Ghost acting on our souls through His gifts of Wisdom and Understanding with special intensity to increase and perfect our love for Him. These gifts are part of the normal equipment of Christian sanctity. They are given to all in Baptism, and if they are given it is presumably because God wants them to be developed. Their development will always remain the free gift of God and it is true that His wise Providence sees fit to develop them less in some saints than in others. But it is also true that God often measures His gifts by our desire to receive them, and by our cooperation with His grace, and the Holy Spirit will not waste any of His gifts on people who have little or no interest in them.

Ordo et Sanctitas: The Franciscan Spiritual Journey in Theology and Hagiography- 2017-05-30 Ordo et Sanctitas: The Franciscan Spiritual Journey in Theology and Hagiography offers articles on Franciscan hagiographical texts; medieval theology and the Bonaventurian theological tradition; and the retrieval of the Franciscan tradition in a contemporary context.

The Universal Christ-Richard Rohr 2019-03-05 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From one of the world's most influential spiritual thinkers, a long-awaited book exploring what it means that Jesus was called "Christ," and how this forgotten truth can restore hope and meaning to our lives. "Anyone who strives to put their faith into action will find encouragement and inspiration in the pages of this book."—Melinda Gates In his decades as a globally recognized teacher, Richard Rohr has helped millions realize what is at stake in matters of faith and spirituality. Yet Rohr has never written on the most perennially talked about topic in Christianity: Jesus. Most know who Jesus was, but who was Christ? Is the word simply Jesus's last name? Too often, Rohr writes, our understandings have been limited by culture, religious debate, and the human tendency to put ourselves at the center. Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet. Thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, *The Universal Christ* is a landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers, and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is. To Stir a Restless Heart-Jacob W. Wood 2019

Thomas Merton: A Life in Letters-Thomas Merton 2008-10-07 Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was one of the most influential spiritual writers of modern times. A Trappist monk, peace and civil rights activist, and widely-praised literary figure, Merton was renowned for his pioneering work in contemplative spirituality, his quest to understand Eastern thought and integrate it with Western spirituality, and his firm belief in Christian activism. His autobiography, *The Seven Storey Mountain*, is the defining spiritual memoir of its time, selling over one million copies and translating into over fifteen languages. Merton was also one of the most prolific and provocative letter writers of the twentieth century. His letters (those written both by him and to him), archived at the Thomas Merton Studies Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, number more than ten thousand. For Merton, letters were not just a vehicle for exchanging information, but his primary means for initiating, maintaining, and deepening relationships. Letter-writing was a personal act of self-revelation and communication. His letters offer a unique lens through which we relive the spiritual and social upheavals of the twentieth century, while offering wisdom that is still relevant for our world today.

Befriending Silence-Carl McColman 2015-11-20 Winner of the 2016 Georgia Author of the Year: Inspirational-religious books. Respected speaker, author, and Patheos blogger Carl McColman introduces Cistercian spirituality as "the hidden jewel of the Church," presenting a surprisingly contemporary path

grounded in monastic tradition. This accessible and comprehensive guide highlights a unique focus on simplicity, living close to the earth, and contemplative prayer, all of which make Cistercian spirituality relevant today. Steeped in chant and silence, grounded in down-to-earth work and service, and immersed in the mystical wisdom of teachers ancient (Bernard of Clairvaux) and modern (Thomas Merton), Cistercian spirituality's beautifully humble path has for centuries made monasteries places of rest, retreat, and renewal. Now, Carl McColman offers the first practical introduction to this ancient, contemplative spirituality for all people. Hailed by reviewers of his many books as playful, and profound, McColman draws on his experience as a lay Cistercian to provide insight into the relevance of the tradition to contemporary issues and spiritual practice. He explains how silence, simplicity, stability, stewardship of the earth, contemplation, ongoing conversion, and devotion to Mary combine to offer a rich and unique path to discipleship and intimacy with God.

Seeds-Thomas Merton 2002 The essence of Merton's thought and its relevance for today, presented in a collection of short readings from a broad selection of his work.

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