

B01: Popular Presentation of Catholic Faith

First Place

Go to Joseph by Br. Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS, Br. Micael Leach and Chrstine Krystofczyk, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

This beautiful book is a real attention-getter, a big-format volume filled with striking color art an accessible text, all focused on St. Joseph. Its prime attractions are the superb repoductions of wonderful paintings by the artist Brother McGrath and a fine selection of supporting, pertinent texts by a cadre of excellent writers.

Second Place

When Faith Feels Fragile by R. Scott Hurd, Pauline Books and Media, Boston, MA

The author's simple thesis is that faith needs to be nurtured if it is to thrive in the individual, and his book illuminates the opporutnities for doing so that are inherent in the very ordinariness of life itself. It is an easy-read invitation to personal growth.

Third Place (Tied)

The Thorny Grace of It by Brian Doyle, Loyola Press, Chicago, IL

A rollicking exploration of those many parts of life where we find life challenging, reassuring, demanding, comforting, happy and yet puzzling. Doyle shows how to be Catholic and enjoy it -- in school and at church, at work and at home, out in the woods or on the basketball court.

Third Place (Tied)

Faith meets World by Barry Hudock, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

This is a comprehensive and smoothly written survey of Catholic social teaching situated in the changing cultural, economic and pulitical environment of the times since Rerum Novarum. The author's accessible prose belies the depth of this impressive summary of the principles at play in a world where human rights are under constant pressure.

B02a: Spirituality - Soft Cover

First Place

Atchison Blue by Judith Valente, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

To read this book is to enter into a world seldom accessible to most people. Judith Valente opens the door to life in a monastery and allows the reader to share the intimate details of the Sisters' lives. In doing so, she skillfully interweaves her own life with their daily lives and finds answers deep within herself to her own spiritual quest. The honesty of her portrayal of her life and the lives of the Sisters is bound to evoke deep resonance within the heart of the reader. The quality of Valente's writing makes the reading of this book a delightful and fulfilling experience.

Second Place

The Art of Pausing by Judith Valente, Br. Paul Quenon, OCSO and Michael Bever, ACTA Publications, Chicago, IL

This is a book for those who wish they had more time for prayer. A Haiku quickly focuses the mind, a brief reflection captures the heart and voilà – you have paused for prayer! The authors skillfully lead the reader in the acquisition of the art of pausing to drink at this fountain of spiritual refreshment.

Third Place

Spiritual Letters by Sr. Wendy Beckett, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

This is a chance to read the letters of a living mystic. It is a privilege to be given access to the personal writings of Sister Wendy. To read her letters is to enter the depths of her intense relationship with God. The letters are an honest, entertaining, wisdom-filled excursion into the thinking of a person who is not only an acclaimed art critic but also a trusted guide on the path of mystical prayer.

B02b: Spirituality - Hard Cover

First Place

Meditations on Vatican Art by Mark Haydu, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

This book presents selected artworks from the Vatican Museums. The inspiring text guides the reader to carefully examine each work, provides a scripture meditation, and offers a prayer, reflection and spiritual exercise. The book is well-organized and includes beautiful color images of each sacred art piece.

Second Place

Go to Joseph by Brother Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS, Michael Leach and Christine Krzystofczyk, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

An engaging book unique in its focus on St. Joseph. Illustrations of St. Joseph along with commentary, prayers and personal stories from 16 contributing authors provide a thoughtful examination of St. Joseph's life as husband, father and patron of the universal church.

Third Place

The Way of the Cross: The Path to New Life by Joan Chittister and Janet McKenzie, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

Honorable Mention

Julian's Gospel: Illuminating the Life & Revelations of Julian of Norwich by Veronica Mary Rolf, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

This fascinating work offers a convincing reconstruction of Julian's life in fourteenth century Norwich, along with a comprehensive chapter by chapter commentary on her Revelations rendered here in a new and faithful translation from the Middle English.

B03: Theology

First Place

Icons of Hope: The "Last Things" in Catholic Imagination by John E. Thiel, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN

This work masterfully confronts modern Catholic theology's reluctance to engage the eschatological imagination of Christians. Using kataphatic resources in art and literature to engage the apophatic mysteries of the eschaton, it challenges us to embrace the virtue of hope.

Second Place

The Catholicity of Reason by D.C. Shindler, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI

This volume provides a robust and elegant defense of the role of reason in philosophy and theology. Touching upon such topics as beauty, wonderment, revelation, faith, and truth, Schindler presents a compelling case for recovering reason's breadth and vitality.

Third Place

Moral Evil by Andrew Michael Flescher, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC

This book explores "evil" using four models of analysis. It engages the reader in the project of classic Catholic theodiceans, and provides a sophisticated examination of historic approaches to moral evil. Students and scholars will benefit from this work.

B04a: Scripture - Popular Studies

First Place

Encountering Jesus in the Scriptures by Daniel J. Harrington and Christopher R. Matthews, C21 Resources, Chestnut Hill, MA

The fourteen brief essays in this volume make some of the best modern scholarship available to average readers. The essays originally appeared in journals intended for the general public by some of today's finest New Testament scholars. The essays treat such fascinating topics as "Jesus: What's Fact? What's Fiction?" "The Miracles of Jesus," "The Study of Women in the Early Church," and "Apocryphal Gospels: Early Christian Piety and the Legendary Jesus." This brief volume would make an excellent choice for a Sunday morning bible class or group bible study. It is an important contribution to the continued study of scripture by lay people.

Second Place

Mark and Empire: Feminist Reflections by Laurel K. Cobb, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

This is not your ordinary biblical commentary on the Gospel of Mark. It is not written by a New Testament scholar but by a woman who has labored for over thirty years as a social worker, management consultant and public health worker in over thirty-five countries.

Cobb views Mark through visual images and many years of experience in the Third World. Mark's Gospel is a story of justice and love in a world dominated by the Roman Empire. The question for people then and now is how to be a faithful disciple of Christ in a world of power politics, greed, violence and oppression. The volume proceeds through the sixteen chapters of Mark's Gospel providing many vivid visual and verbal examples of the challenges to contemporary discipleship and how to live and witness to the Christian life today.

Third Place

Saint Paul and the New Evangelization by Ronald D. Witherup, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

Written for the average reader, this book addresses the subject of an ordinary synod of bishops held in Rome, October 7-28, 2012. The subject matter of that synod and of Witherup's book is the New Evangelization. Witherup concentrates on how the Apostle Paul was and remains an exemplary model of evangelization in Christian history. After providing some historical background and the meaning of the New Evangelization, Witherup uses the writings of St. Paul to show how people today can spread the gospel of Christ to a new generation. Each chapter concludes with review and reflection questions that make the book an excellent choice for parish groups who want to become further involved in the New Evangelization. The book contains a helpful glossary of terms used, as well as a series of Appendices summarizing the books major emphases.

B04b: Scripture - Academic Studies

First Place

The Bible in Medieval Tradition: The Letter to the Romans by Ian Christopher Levy, Philip D.W. Krey and Thomas Ryan, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI

This is an important contribution not only to the study of biblical interpretation in the Medieval tradition, but also to the study of The Book of Romans. This rich, but often ignored tradition of interpretation and commentary receives here the

attention it deserves. The introduction to pre-Reformation interpretation (pp. 1-58) is particularly illuminating, concise and accessible to all. The commentaries translated include, the Anonymous Commentator of Mont Saint-Michel, William of St. Thierry, Peter Abelard, Peter Lombard, The Cambridge Commentary, Thomas Aquinas, Peter of John Olivi, and Nicholas of Lyra. The volume also contains bibliographies of primary and secondary texts, as well as an index of scriptural references.

Second Place

Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John's Bible by Michael Patella, OSB, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

The Saint John's Bible was the first handwritten and hand-illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press. This impressive volume is an important contribution to the discipline of biblical hermeneutics by illustrating and, yes, illuminating, how sacred art and images can work in concert with texts to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Sacred Scripture. The volume contains four major parts, the longest of which is a hermeneutical guide featuring material from the deliberations of the Committee on Illumination and Text (CIT), the artists at the Scriptorium in Wales, and discussion on the images themselves. It is beautifully illustrated, and clearly written. The volume contains a helpful glossary of terms as well as a bibliography.

Third Place

David Remembered: Kingship and National identity in Ancient Israel by Joseph Blenkinsopp, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, MI

The figure of David holds particular interest and importance in both the Jewish and Christian traditions not only because he was a great king, but also a messianic figure. Students often ask what happened to the Davidic tradition in the post-exilic period? How was the David tradition carried on, and how was the messianic promise understood after the demise of the monarchy? Blenkinsopp provides an engaging, clear and thorough explanation of the development of the Davidic tradition in the Second Temple period. It is an excellent source for scholars and students alike. The volume would serve as a fine text for classroom use at the upper division or graduate level of biblical studies.

Honorable Mention

Jeremiah and God's Plans of Well-Being by Barbara Green, The University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, SC

Jeremiah is a notoriously complex book to read and understand. Though familiar with traditional exegetical approaches, Barbara Green introduces readers to a narratological approach to the book tracing Jeremiah as a literary figure through seven periods of his prophetic life. Though alert to historical questions, Green also provides insights into biblical spirituality, cultural studies and the use of language.

The Book of Jeremiah is "honest enough," writes Green, "to own that the violent language is not persuasive, is not helpful, does not inspire reform or repentance on the part of any hearing it.... The deity cannot shout the people into compliance, and the prophet...fails by blaming instead of understanding. He does best at a moment where, less defensive, he concedes some space to hearers, explains" (pp. 175-176). The volume contains a select bibliography and an index of subjects.

B05: Liturgy

First Place

Saint Margaret Mary Sunday Missal by Michael E. Novak and Denise C. Durand, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

The Saint Margaret Mary Sunday Missal is an outstanding participation aid for members of the Sunday Assembly. It is logically organized and beautifully produced. By providing the orations and readings for every Sunday, solemnity, and major feast, it instantly encourages participation in the Mass. Moreover, it schools the reader in the Church's liturgical year, exposes them to proper vocabulary, invites them to a greater appreciation of liturgical texts, and engulfs them in

the treasury of Sacred Scripture. Brief Biblical commentaries, seasonal notes, and a treasury of Catholic prayers encourage private reflection.

Second Place

What We Have Done and What We have Failed to Do: Assessing the Liturgical Reforms of Vatican II by Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

In What We Have Done and What We have Failed to Do, Msgr. Kevin Irwin provides a thorough, fair, and accurate analysis of what has transpired in the fifty years since the promulgation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. Unlike so many debates of our times that are often based upon personal pieties or preferences, Irwin grounds his contentions in the Church's liturgical documents and books. He steeps his well-argued analysis in sound liturgical theology. And he does it all in clear and conversational language which makes it all accessible to clergy, liturgists, parish worship commissions, musicians, seminarians, and students of the liturgy.

Third Place

The Passions of Holy Week by Charles Rohrbacher, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

Too often, the Passion accounts of Holy Week have been subjected to amateur attempts to break Scripture into several speaking parts. Now, parishes can rely on this edition, produced by the Liturgical Press, to proclaim the Gospel with ease and grace. The book is worthy of the words of Christ – each page is thoughtfully laid out, illustrations contribute to its artistry, and the cover is beautifully designed and distinctively bound.

B06: Pastoral Ministry

First Place

Rebuilt by Michael White and Tom Corcoran, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

Rebuilt offers concrete, creative and successful strategies to address the issues of parish participants.

Second Place

Notes from the Underground: The Spiritual Journey of a Secular Priest by Donald Cozzens, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

In Notes from the Underground, Donald Cozzens explains the many difficult issues that both the ordained and lay faithful are confronting today. He speaks openly and honestly about faith and spirituality.

Third Place

Discovering Trinity in Disability by Myroslaw Tataryn and Maria Truchan-Tataryn, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

In Discovering Trinity in Diversity we are privileged to explore issues confronting the faithful with disabilities and we are reminded of the need to welcome and invite people who are different than we are. We also are reminded that Jesus had a special place in His heart for those who are suffering because of disability. These issues are presented and explored in a though provoking and enlightening manner.

B07: Professional Book

First Place

Navigating Pastoral Transitions by Graziano Marcheschi, Marti Jewell and Barbara Kerkhoff, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

These three booklets offer an excellent hands on, user friendly process that would be extremely helpful for Parishes, Parish Staffs, and Pastors that are going through a period of transitions in pastoral leadership. The process and

reflections offered in these booklets would also be an aid to the leadership teams of Religious Orders as they attempt to fill vacancies.

Second Place

The Art of Leadership by Notker Wolf and Enrica Rosanna, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

This book offers alternating male and female perspectives on the art of leadership and opens insights into what is needed to be a good leader. This small treasure of reflections is useful for anyone either currently in leadership or being called into leadership.

Third Place

Redeeming Administration by Ann M. Garrido, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

This book offers an interesting historical perspective on how to develop and sustain spiritual habits in leadership. Every chapter offers a "saintly" person who embodies the depth of the spiritual habit under discussion. A valuable resource for any administration or individual who takes some time away to examine and pray on their role as a Catholic Leader.

B08: Design and Production

First Place

Meditations on Vatican Art by Mark Haydu, LC, STL, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

We were immediately drawn to the art on the jacket from Caravaggio's Masterpiece, The Disposition of Christ. Text provides us with 36 beautiful works of art from the Vatican. These include the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's The Last Judgment. Each major piece of artwork is followed by a prayer and reflection and a short spiritual exercise. The page layouts are exceptional as is the type used. The pages are especially notable because each page has eight columns of type surrounded by a light wash of light gold. The covers of the book are good quality buckram and the spine is imprinted with the title, the author's name and Liguori's logo in gold.

Second Place

The Sistine Chapel: A Biblical Tour by Christine M. Panyard, PhD, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

As we peruse the pages of this volume, we are struck by the genius of Michelangelo. Produced in full color are all of his Sistine works of art on the walls and the ceiling of the Chapel. The paper stock is excellent as is the type selected. The chrome coated paper really brings out the color of the artwork. As a special feature, all the artwork's placement on the ceiling and walls are on a chart at the beginning of each section. This keeps the reader on track going from page to page.

Third Place

Go To Joseph by Brother Michael O'Neil McGrath, OSFS, Christine Krystofczyk and Christine Enault, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

The bold color art of Michael O'Neill McGrath (a.k.a. Brother Mickey) is captivating in this oversized volume honoring St. Joseph, earthly father of Jesus. The layout and production of the entire book makes it a joyous journey.

Honorable Mention

Rebuilt: The Story of a Catholic Parish by Michael White and Tom Corcoran, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

B09a: Children's Books

First Place

Shepards to the Rescue: Gospel Tim Trekkers #1 by Maria grace Dateno, FSP, Pauline Books and Media, Boston, MA

Why: Start of a fun series, action-packed, realistic in language and tone, interesting storyline, good illustrations.

Second Place

The Prayer of St. Francis by St. Francis of Assisi, Illustrated by Guiliano Ferri, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

Good for all ages, lovely illustrations, easy-to-follow storyline, a discussion-starter.

Third Place

Francis of Assisi: Keeper of Creation by Barbara Yoffie and Katherine A. Borgatti, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

Great flow, fun storyline, beautiful illustrations, includes educational component.

Honorable Mention

Saint Theodora and her Promise to God by Mary Doyle, Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN

Historical, empowering, adventure-filled, travel themes, trust themes, prayer component, love plays a role, highlights active listening and action, good illustrations.

B09b: Teen and Young Adult

First Place

Prayers, Papers, and Play: Devotions for Every College Student by Barbara Canale, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

We thought the discussion of relevant topics makes this a great book for students beginning college and those already attending. It was not overwhelming, covered very poignant life events and held our interest.

Second Place

a.k.a. genius by Marilee Haynes, Pauline Books and Media, Boston, MA

We found this book to be written in a real voice. The struggles of the main character to overcome his fears and insecurities are issues many teens deal with on a daily basis. We thought the plot was very interesting and think both middle schoolers and high school students would enjoy reading this.

Third Place

The Gate by Nancy Carabio Belanger, Harvey House Publishing, Rochester, MI

We agreed that although this was one of the longest books it was an easy read. We thought a story like this was believable and gave hope. The characters were very real and the challenges and situations they had to deal with were relatable.

Honorable Mention

Your College Faith . . . Own It by Matt Swaim and Colleen Swaim, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

This book was not as easy a read as the others, but we agreed it could be a very valuable tool in initiating discussions of sensitive topics. We think it would best be used in a college spirituality group.

B10: First Time Authors

First Place

Julian's Gospel by Veronica Mary Rolf, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

Hard to believe this is a first book penned by the author. Although many books on the life and spirituality of Julian of Norwich precede Rolf's, both veteran and newly ordained seekers of the enigmatic mystic Julian will profit from this author's mastery of the subject matter. Julian's Revelations take on a deeper personal nature and relevance when viewed through Rolf's historical, familial, and theological insights. The author deftly portrays a Julian of her time but for all time—a voice that speaks to 21st century people with profound wisdom, faithful to Church teachings yet always plumbing its depths. The reader will come away with a renewed understanding and appreciation of the resurrection effect of "putting on Christ" that is available to all who seek the Truth.

Second Place

Meditations on Vatican Art by Mark Haydu, LC, STL, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

Written by the international coordinator of the Patrons of the Arts for the Vatican Museums, this book takes the form of a 28-day meditative retreat, beautifully illustrated with works from the Vatican collections. The meditations are based on St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises and supplemented by information about the art. Father Haydu is an experienced spiritual director and the writing is clear and to the point. "Meditations" would make a fine gift for oneself or another.

Third Place

A Martyr's Crown by Joyce Coronel, The Catholic Sun, Phoenix, AZ

This inviting novel involves a lightly fictionalized account of the plight of Iraqi Chaldean Catholics, both those in Iraq and those who have emigrated to the U.S. and elsewhere. With a mother-to-mother story line it is an enticing read, while offering important education about one of the Eastern Catholic Churches often unknown to or little understood by Catholics of the West and information about the persecution of Christians in some countries of the Middle East.

Honorable Mention

Act of Recovery by Michael D. Hoffman, ACTA Publications, Chicago, IL

This sensitive, courageous and succinct account of the author's healing from childhood sexual abuse by a priest of the Catholic Church should go a long way to lift the burden of guilt, shame, and denial carried by other victims. Accompanying the author through his "twelve acts of recovery" will help them to seek and to find their own pathway of healing.

B11: Family Life

First Place

When Parents Divorce or Separate by Lynn Cassella-Kapusinski, Pauline Books and Media, Boston, MA

This is a valuable resource for children of divorce. The easy and attractive format leads the young person through stories, check lists, exercises and prayer designed to help identify and deal with the feelings, changes and concerns the child of divorce must deal with.

Second Place

Blessed By Less by Susan V. Vogt, Loyola Press, Chicago, IL

This is not your usual how-to-get-rid-of-clutter book. It is an inspiring guide filled with practical suggestions based on Susan Vogt's own experience of lightening her own material and emotional burdens. She provides the reader a view of how a Lenten resolution--to give one thing away each day for forty days--led to a spiritual journey, deepening her faith and relationship with God.

Third Place

Catholic Mom's Café by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, IN

Truly a gift for busy moms who long for spiritual enrichment, yet struggle with finding space in their jam-packed days. The book offers a doable routine of daily five minute retreats beginning with spiritual quotes, followed by thoughts for reflection and suggested prayer. A guide to drawing closer to God for even the busiest of moms.

Honorable Mention

It Is Well: Life in the Storm by Chris Faddis, Solace Books

B13: History

First Place

Called to Serve: A History of Nuns in America by Margaret M. McGuinness, New York University Press, New York, NY

This book accurately and engagingly tells the important, inspiring story of the dedicated nuns and Sisters in the United States who have been the face of the Catholic Church teaching in schools, founding hospitals, caring for the poor and ministering to those in need.

Second Place

Thomas Aquinas and Karl Barth: An Unofficial Catholic-Protestant Dialogue by Bruce L. McCormack and Thomas Joseph White, OP, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI

Although these two theological giants were separated by more than six centuries, this outstanding collection of essays sets forth, compares and contrasts their central teachings on the key theological topics of God, Trinity, Jesus Christ, Grace and Justification, Election, Providence and Natural Law.

Third Place

Catholic Progressives in England After Vatican II by Jay P. Corrin, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN

This splendid book describes the progressive focus of key English Catholic thinkers in the context of Vatican II, British politics and continental theologians as they came to understand and express the transforming message of the Gospel over the past 50 years.

B14: Biography

First Place

Drawn from Shadows into Truth: A Memoir by Fr. Ray Ryland, Emmaus Road Publishing, Steubenville, OH

A fascinating autobiography in the spirit of Bl. John Henry Newman, Drawn from Shadows into Truth: A Memoir is a special and beautifully written story of how a married minister in the Protestant evangelical Disciples of Christ first became an Episcopal priest and later an ordained priest and outstanding pastor in the Catholic Church for 30 years. This captivating narrative of his spiritual journey - from a poor Oklahoma farm boy to naval officer to Protestant minister to Harvard-trained lawyer to a married Catholic priest with five children and 22 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, no retired and 83 to finish his own book. A must read!

Second Place

Divided Friends: Portraits of the Roman Catholic Modernist Crisis in the United States by William L. Portier, Catholic University Press, Washington, DC

Well-written by a leading American theologian, and valuable coverage of an important chapter in US Catholic history: thorough, accurate information and much needed by scholars. Well-referenced about a tumultuous time in our Catholic

history. Delves into the philosophy and theology of two pair of friends. Reflections of older priests today abound. A scholarly read but important to own.

Third Place

A Worldwide Heart: The Life of Maryknoll Father John J. Consodine by Robert Hurteau, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

A monumental biography of a man who was a driving force at Maryknoll for many years. He was editor of Maryknoll Magazine for 24 years, 1936-1960 and put the mission magazine in the international spotlight. And he was a Vatican insider, and Director of the U.S. Bishops Latin America Bureau, 1960-1968. He became a leading educator for World Christianity, especially focused on Africa and Latin America. Robert Hurteau is a former Maryknoll priest now teaching at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and Director of the Center for Religion and Spirituality there. He spent some 10 years completing this important work.

Honorable Mentions

Anthony deMello: The Happy Wanderer by Bill deMello, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

In a less competitive year, probably a winner in this category, blessed with rich entries for 2013. An outstanding biography of one of the great spirituality writers and retreat leaders of the 20th C. Tony died in 1987 and this key work by his beloved brother Bill, filled with family insights on his life and works as a Jesuit, captures it all. A wonderful gift for deMello lovers from Orbis.

The Life of Walter F. Sullivan by Phyllis Theroux, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

A timely and illuminating biography by a leading writer of one of our great Peace & Justice heroes, and a humble soul who actually will not mind being relegated to "honorable mention" for his life given to Christ. Again, maybe a winner in another year.

B15: Gender Issues

First Place

Religious Life at the Crossroads by Amy Hereford, CSJ, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

One could come up with a long list of negatives about religious life in the 21st century, but Sr. Amy has taken the higher road and convincingly portrays the possibilities inherent in communities founded and empowered by the Spirit. Her views of religious life in an emerging church are based on the no longer viable structures of pre-Vatican II Church. Her candor in exposing the masculine influence that has led to the disintegration and disruption of women's religious communities is relevant for the restructuring of postmodern religious life. Her future-oriented chapter on "New Forms of Religious Life" should be required reading for everyone in consecrated life or contemplating it and for every bishop-- and that includes Pope Francis.

Second Place

Conscience and Calling: Ethical Reflections on Catholic Women's Church Vocations by Anne Patrick, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, UK

It is an extremely interesting, thoughtful, and well written book. Patrick uses quotes from relevant sources throughout the text to substantiate her careful reasoning. It was wonderful to read her ideas and the dynamic women she included to support them. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand the feminist viewpoint of women religious.

Third Place

Blessed, Beautiful, and Bodacious by Pat Gohn, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

Even for those of us who do not fit the last category --bold and audacious -- this book will bless and help you to tap into the beauty of womanhood. Through Pat Gohn's honest and realistic lens, women of all sizes, shapes, and ages can focus on their own God-given gifts and plans for their life. Her insights into motherhood and our Blessed Mother are particularly "audacious;" i.e, profound. Treat yourself to an uplifting and hope-filled message by reading Ms. Gohn's book—especially when you are feeling battered, bruised and burnt out!

B16: Reference Books

First Place

Encyclopedia of U.S. Catholic History by Matthew Bunson and Margaret Bunson, Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, IN

The just-over 1,000 double column pages in this large volume provides a wealth of United States Catholic history. Readers and users of this new one-volume, 7" x 10" encyclopedia, will find a fascinating and rewarding collection of entries on all 50 dioceses and archdioceses, a survey of the many ethnic groups and the role of lay, religious, and clerical groups that made invaluable contributions to the shaping of American Catholicism over the past five centuries, and much more. This is a wonderful reference book for students from middle school on up the graduate level. Fascinating, informative, and even fun to read.

Second Place

Handbook of Roman Catholic Moral Terms by James T. Bretzke, SJ, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC

Here is a perfect reference for faculty and students teaching and studying Moral Theology on college, graduate and seminary levels. James T. Bretzke is to be congratulated on providing clarity and understanding to complex moral issues. Also, for acknowledging issues in debate. Priest and deacon preachers will be guided well by this volume when dealing with sensitive issues.

Third Place

Mysticism and the Spiritual Guest: A Crosscultural Anthology by Phyllis Zagano, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

Here is a valuable book that can be recommended to students and teachers interested in getting a clear understanding of the spiritual practice of the world's major religious bodies. The volume clearly presents the religious practice of Hinduism, Chinese Traditions, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This book is not meant to engage or invite the readers into the practice, but to provide understanding and appreciation for each of the religious traditions.

Honorable Mention

Faith Basics: Pocket Catholic Dictionary by Leon J. Suprenant, Jr., Emmaus Road Publishing, Steubenville, OH

B17: Diocesan Directory

First Place

2013 Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic Directory by Hermine Lees and Chris Krause, editors; Production: Jose Velazquez and Michelle Rugel, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Large size book for a large size archdiocese with good information on each parish or other institution, spiral-bound and side tabbed for easy access to the various sections. Complete telephone index for quick and easy use, easy-to-see Archdiocesan Pastoral Regions with listing of all parishes and graphic location in the state. Parish founding date and number of registered families is given. A good and practical tool with easy access to pertinent information cleanly presented in an organized way.

Second Place

Diocese of Rockford Official Directory by Staff, Diocese of Rockford, Rockford, IL

A beautifully presented large size directory that is both practical and artistically done. Striking color photos of each parish church building along with all pertinent contact information as well as number of registered families and founding date. A key feature is a color photo of each diocesan administration staff person which puts a face with a name for those working in the parishes.

Third Place

2013 Catholic Directory, Diocese of Buffalo by Staff, Diocese of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Appealing cover leads into a user-friendly tool tabbed for easy access to all diocesan categories. A really practical feature is the separation of the city parishes and those outside the city. Good use of the compact size and spiral binding for practicality.

Honorable Mention

2013 Diocese of Orange Catholic Directory by Content by Mary Kay Griffing, Simona Tonti; Production: Jose Velazquez, Michelle Rugel, Diocese of Orange, Orange, CA

B18a: Best Complete Catalog

First Place

Orbis Books Fall/Winter 2013 by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

The striking cover of this catalog shows a painting of a young nun during the middle ages. This immediately struck our interest. The catalog is printed on coated stock and is completely four-color making it a pleasure to peruse the pages. It should be noted that Orbis has provided a description of books either by the same author or on the same subject as the featured book. This insures that the book buyer knows that a category can be completed giving Orbis a second "bite at the apple." The page layouts are extremely well done and the type selection is excellent.

Second Place

Catalog: Summer 2013 by OCP Marketing Staff, Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR

A photograph featured on the cover of this catalog is of a ciborium filled with hosts which is certainly an eye catcher for any Catholic book buyer or parish sundry buyer. This catalog is mailed to Catholic bookstores and parishes around the country and offers missals, hymn and Catholic song books, for distribution to parishioners and choir member and music directors. The paper is excellent and shows the four color photographs of the merchandise offered in high fidelity. The page design is good and helps the user to easily track their interest areas.

Third Place

Recursos en Español y Bilingües 2013-2014 / Spanish and Bilingual Resources 2013-2014 by OCP Marketing Staff, Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR

In the practical style of half in English and half in Spanish, an example of good color layout presentation with striking photography making it people-personal. Easy access to contact information.

Honorable Mention

Paulist Press Complete Reference Catalog 2014 by Lynn Else, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

B18b: Best Trade/Seasonal Catalog

First Place

WLP Fall 2013 Catalog: Embracing Technology in the Church by Gina Buckley and Chris Broquet, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

Good, modern cover immediately arrested the attention. Bold colors make the reversed-out type extremely readable and add good contrast. Scanning for complete title listing replaces traditional index. A well-done tool to move the buyer.

Second Place

Ave Maria Press Fall 2013 Trade Catalog by John Carson and Chris Tobin, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN

Appealing cover art entices the user to open the catalog. Coated stock used throughout gives a heft and feeling of quality. The book photographs for both the front and backlist are in full color and give the trade book buyer a good idea of what their shelves will look like. The page layouts are good and serve to carry the user's interest from one spread to the next.

B19: Best Book from a Small Publisher

First Place

Raising Gentle Men: Lives at the Orphanage Edge by Jay Sullivan and Kevin Atticks, Apprentice House, Baltimore, MD

This book stands out for its honesty. An account of the author's two post-Boston College years as a volunteer in Jamaica, it touches on his teaching job at a Jesuit school but focuses on his year as an after-school live-in role model at a boys' orphanage in Kingston. Without being maudlin, writer Jay Sullivan portrays the orphans' hunger for adult attention and affection as well as their very real hungers for food and other necessities as provided by the Sisters of Mercy who operate Alpha Boys School. Sullivan clearly delights in his time with the boys; at the same time he is frank about the necessary balance provided by interaction with the other American volunteers in his group. "Raising Gentle Men" is a winner.

Second Place

The Ascent of Mount Carmel by St. John of the Cross: Reflections by Marc Foley, OCD, ICS Publications, Miamisburg, OH

*Both scholarly and practical, these reflections provide an excellent handbook to accompany the often challenging writing of St. John of the Cross. Father Marc weaves contemporary illustrations and allusions into his reflections on the saint's work, thus making it more accessible to the 21st-Century reader. Admitting that *The Ascent of Mount Carmel* can be difficult to read, Father Marc invites his reader to tackle the classic, while providing a work that is useful on its own.*

Third Place

Naked and you Clothed Me by Jim Knipper, editor; featuring Rob Bell, James Martin, SJ, Jan Richardson, Richard Rohr, OFM and Mickey McGrath, OSFS, Clear Faith Publishing, Princeton, NJ

Honorable Mention

Young in the Spirit by Mary Doyle, ACTA Publications, Geneva, IL

B20: Social Teaching

First Place

Christianity and the Political Order by Kenneth R. Himes, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

Fr. Himes carefully and eloquently walks the reader through the mine field that is "religion and politics." He provides biblical and historical "soundings" for this journey and speaks with clarity and insight on current moral complexities and issues.

The role of Christianity in Politics is a prominent issue today. The core of the relationship is how justice plays a part on the local and global stage. How should we as Christians react? This book looks at this issues from the Old Testament

times and into our world of today. The issues of the role of the church in politics, human rights, globalization and responsible voting are addressed. This is a really good book for anyone looking for how the political world and faith interact.

Second Place

Preferential Option for the Poor Beyond Theology by Daniel G. Groody and Gustavo Gutiérrez, editors, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN

“The Option for the Poor” is something that we hear so much about but to ask people in the pews or students in school, what does that mean to you, a variety of answers would be given. This is such an important part of Catholic Social Teaching all should know and live its spirit. Pope Francis calls us to this.

Daniel Groody and Gustavo Gutierrez have put together a collection of essays that takes this subject out of the theology classroom and make it relevant to the various disciplines where we spend our ordinary lives. Looking at this through the eyes of technology, politics and the economy we gain insight into the challenges that face the poor and into the issues of faith that lie behind them.

The “option for the poor” takes on new meaning in the dialogue between liberation theologian, Gustavo Gutierrez, and international physician, Paul Farmer. The walls between their disciplines melt away in the conversation about the crossroads between spirituality and health care. Their mutual friendship and appreciation blends their distinctive worldviews and experiences into a hopeful energy.

Third Place

Hope Sings, So Beautiful by Christopher Pramuk, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

Race is still a dividing issue in our society today. Christopher Pramuk in the introduction to this book makes the observation that today most white people in the U. S. and around the world remain blind to racism because they have the privilege of not seeing. Racism may be a symptom of the poverty in this world but we are called as Christians to be in that world. This is a thought provoking book from a variety of writers from different backgrounds. It certainly feeds the imagination to the challenges of race.

Honorable Mention

The Development of Moral Theology by Charles E. Curran, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC

Curran opens up the layers and diversity that is the tradition of Catholic Moral Theology with his usual clarity and insight. In bringing together the five “strands” that he examines the reader comes away with renewed appreciation of the tapestry that makes up this living tradition.

B21: Faith and Science

First Place

Prophets of the Posthuman: American Fiction, Biotechnology, and the Ethics of Personhood by Christina Beiber Lake, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN

This distinctive marriage of literary narrative with ethical reflection results in an inviting, sophisticated, and nuanced approach to the topic of biotechnology and the human person. With impeccable scholarship it provides ready made case studies, drawn from contemporary American literature, which foster deep reflection upon the meaning of personhood against the backdrop of our emerging understanding of biology and neuroscience. Both profound and readable, this work is a delight for use by any professor or graduate student, as well as the casually interested educated reader.

Second Place

A Defense of Dignity: Creating Life, Destroying Life, and Protecting the Rights of Conscience by Christopher Kaczor, University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN

This series of essays examines issues of biology, biotechnology, and personhood with precise reasoning and clear writing. The author addresses both immediate and speculative issues; the topics range from organ donations and the definition of clinical death, to the ethics of artificial wombs. Referencing both contemporary philosophical arguments and recent Papal documents, this book provides a clear, concise, and closely-reasoned outline of traditional Catholic teachings on the subject.

Third Place

The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love by Ilia Delio, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

*The evolution of our understanding of the cosmos has shaped the modern debate on the nature of personhood. Delio shows how a postmodern understanding of the cosmos, as pioneered by Teilhard de Chardin, can provide a new way to place the role of human love and desire back into a cosmos that had once appeared mechanistic and alienating. One particular strength of this work is its wide-ranging scope, with citations ranging from Bonhoeffer's *Letters from Prison* to the latest literature on artificial intelligence.*

Honorable Mention

God in the Midst of Change: Wisdom for Confusing Times by Diarmuid O'Murchu, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

O'Murchu provides an enthusiastic and wide-ranging meditation on how post-classical physics and the new, speculative directions appearing in biology can impact our understanding of God and our relationship to the divine. The provocative suggestions for making sense of "creative chaos" are sure to incite lively discussions.

B22: 50th Anniversary of Vatican II

First Place

Visions of Hope by Kevin J. Ahern, editor, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

The Second Vatican Council has a future! That is the message that emerges from the pages of this book. Poised on the edge of the future journey of the Church, young theologians focus a hopeful beam of light on the path that the church will travel in the next fifty years. This book is marked by the impressive scholarship of its contributors and the remarkable clarity with which the challenges facing the Church are today are presented in a manner that represents the hopeful vision of each author.

Second Place

A Council that will Never End: Lumen Gentium and the Church today by Paul Lakeland, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

*In this interesting and compelling book, Lakeland ably states the case that Vatican II is still a vibrant force in the Church's journey forward. He casts an appreciative look back at the contributions made by the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium*, and projects a hope-filled look ahead to the completing of the Document's unfinished goals. His analysis of the challenges facing the Church today are honest and expressed with a convincing hopeful spirit that envisions what the Church is truly called to be.*

Third Place

Do Not Quench the Spirit!: Celebrating Fifty Years of Vatican II/ ¡No apagues el espíritu!: Celebrando cincuenta años del Concilio Vaticano II by Deacon William T. Ditewig, Edward Foley, Capuchin, Chris Ángel and Karla Bellinger, World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL

This small volume contains a wealth of information about the significance of the Second Vatican Council. Presented in a bilingual format, the book features different perspectives on the importance of Vatican II in the contemporary Church life. In brief, eminently readable chapters, four authors present views on the place of Vatican II in the life of the Church today. This book is recommended as an important source of valuable informative material for individuals and for group discussion.

B23: The Year of Faith

First Place

Believing by Eugene Kennedy, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

Kennedy writes with deep conviction that there is a significant difference between believing what dogmas are about and a believing that is integrated with the personal experiences of each believer. Belief in dogmas can be a sterile process that does not touch the heart. Kennedy moves the reader to an understanding that adult Christian faith is rooted in the realization that faith and our inner lives are intertwined in an ever-evolving relationship. The manner in which Kennedy writes is a sincere and touching portrayal of his personal insights regarding the quality of authentic believing

Second Place

Giving Up God . . . to Find God: Breaking Free of Idolatry by Kerry Walters, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

Readers will be amazed to find that the god they worship look very much like themselves! Skillfully, and in an entertaining manner, Walters exposes the false gods that disguise themselves as legitimate contenders for worship. The reader is rewarded with deep insights gained from his presentation of a serious spiritual topic sprinkled with humor and common sense.

Third Place

Pope Francis: Open Mind, Faithful Heart: Reflections on Following Jesus by Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, The Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, NY

Why is Pope Francis so loved and revered? This book provides an explanation of why he has captured the heart of so many people throughout the world. Written by the then Cardinal Bergoglio, these reflections reveal the spiritual insights of Pope Francis. To read this book is to discover the secret of the Pope's power to touch the hearts and minds of others and to lead the reader to personal conversion.

Honorable Mention

How to Share Your Faith with Anyone by Terry Barber, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA

B24: Faithful Citizenship

First Place

Where Justice and Mercy Meet: Catholic Opposition to the Death Penalty by Vicki Schieber, Trudy Conway and David Matzko McCarthy, editors, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN

A comprehensive exploration of the Catholic position against capital punishment, it provides new insights into the debate. Information about the death penalty, public opinion, the means of execution and the impact on families of murderers and victims is presented along with relevant social teachings from the Bible to Pope John Paul II.

Second Place

Citizens of the World: Suffering and Solidarity in the 21st Century by Donald H. Dunson and James A Dunson III, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

A fine study of the nature of our moral obligation to alleviate suffering in a broken world, it offers both a prophetic challenge and a practical strategy. The authors traveled the world together and now reflect and respond to the call to justice from their contrasting viewpoints as theologian and philosopher. Suitable for the classroom or general reader.

Third Place

The Ethics of Interrogation: Professional Responsibility in an Age of Terror by Paul Lauritzen, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC

A detailed, scholarly analysis of the tensions between legitimate concerns for security in an age of terrorism and the ethics of interrogation and counter terrorism, this technical, multi-disciplinary study is essential reading for policymakers, military leaders, academics and the general public concerned about what is right, just and ethical.

Honorable Mention

Robert McAfee Brown: Spiritual and Prophetic Writings by Paul Crowley, SJ, editor, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY

A finely edited and annotated collection of writings from a leading Protestant voice who was an official observer at the Second Vatican Council and a Presbyterian leader in the ecumenical movement, he inspired justice seekers on issues of civil rights, Jewish-Christian relations, the Vietnam War and the peace movement.

B25: Papal Transition

First Place

A Call to Serve: Pope Francis and the Catholic Future by Stefan von Kempis and Phillip Lawler, The Crossroad Publishing Company, New York, NY

"A Call to Serve" was the clear winner in this category. Subtitled "Pope Francis and the Catholic Future," it explores all the events leading up to the papacy of the man from Argentina and does so with clarity, style and perception. Authors Stefan von Kempis and Phillip Lawler are veteran Catholic journalists. They add their own insights to interviews, conversations and an exhaustive look into the historical record to provide a knowledgeable and lively account of an unprecedented event in the annals of the church. The story of one pope's resignation and the election of another--the first Jesuit, the first Latin American, the first non-European in centuries--makes for a riveting tale. In the hands of these writers, it comes thrillingly to life.

Second Place

Francis, A New World Pope by Michel Cool, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI

"Francis, a New World Pope," by French journalist Michel Cool (translated by Regan Kramer) gives an interesting multi-cultural perspective on the papal election and its immediate aftermath with plenty of reaction from around the world. It also provides a generous sampling of the writings and speeches of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as well as from Pope Francis post-election. All in all, a good roundup of what this Pope has in mind for the Church and how he is being received by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

B26: Immigration

First Place

On "Strangers No Longer": Perspectives on the Historic U.S.-Mexican Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Migration by Todd Schriber and J. Kevin Appleby, editors, Paulist Press, Mahwah, NJ

This book is a collection of writings by various authors to help us understand and clarify the many issues that are surrounding the immigration situation and debate. It, of course, offers a strongly catholic perspective as it interrelates various writings from the official church structures. A valuable resource for anyone needing to understand and develop a platform around the complexity of Immigration.

Second Place

Immigration and the Next America by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, IN

This book offers a historical perspective on the Immigration issue going back to the days of the Spanish influence and challenging our idea of "who is an American?" Archbishop Gomez attempts to widen the vision beyond the history as seen only from the perspective of the United States. This is a resource that will aid in expanding our own insights and vision.

Third Place

The Migrant's Way of the Cross by Fr. Simon C. Kim, Liguori Press, Liguori, MO

The booklet is in both English and Spanish offering the plight of the Immigrant connected to Jesus' way of the cross. This would be a good resource for raising the consciousness of an individual or group through the process of prayer centering on the struggle of the immigrant.

B27: Coffee Table Book

First Place

Spondors of the Creed by Fr. Joseph T. Leinhard, SJ and Fr. Frederic Curnier-Laroche, Magnificat, Yonkers, NY

We were immediately struck by the physical shape of this book (12 ¾" x 6 ¼"). After thumbing through the text, it became obvious that the page shape lent itself to the presentation of the art and text in dramatic fashion. The typography and page layout are excellent and the color separation of the art is outstanding. The paper quality is superb. It's an appealing marriage of appearance with a superb variety of texts including meditation, theology, and artistic analysis.

Second Place

History of the Diocese of Knoxville by Dan McWilliams, The East Tennessee Catholic, Knoxville, TN

This book stands out as the finest Diocesan history that we as judges have had the pleasure of seeing. The page layouts are wonderful and the type selection is good. The coated stock used really makes the hundreds of colored pictures really pop off the pages. The organization of the historical entries is outstanding. Congratulations to all who had a part in the design and production of this book.

Third Place

Purposeful Design: Understanding Creation by Jay Schabacker, Self-Published, Lexington, SC

The page design of this book is attractive. The type selection and paper stock are good for the presentation of the art and photography it contains.

B28: Novel

First Place

The Gate by Nancy Carbio Belanger, Harvey House Publishing, Rochester, MI

This is a warm, joyful story of a boy's journey from self-focused wise guy teetering on the edge of a bad life with no direction, to a responsible faith-filled life, as the result of his meeting and maturing contacts with an older citizen in a rehabilitation center. His new friend is a mystery man who gradually becomes the boy's confidant and teacher and is later revealed to be a priest -- as the boy himself becomes at the novel's end. It is relaxed reading, smoothly done, funny and friendly, with an attractive message of faith, some mystery and some surprises. It has characters that come to life for the reader, gives insight into the teenage mind and milieu, and has powerful lessons about the importance of family, friendship and faith in our modern world.

Second Place

Rapunzel Let Down: A Fairy Tale Retold by Regina Doman, Chesterton Press, Front Royal, VA

A big rambling creative retelling of Grimm's Rapunzel-in-the-castle-with-the-long-hair legend, this book deals frankly with questions one does not expect in a Catholic novel, tuned to present-day interests of a niche audience the Church is trying to reach: Young Adults. It has young love, sexual intercourse, a mother's protective rage, a wicked villain, a rape charge, vivid trial scenes and prison violence, but it also affirms family love, faith, forgiveness, confession and repentance, justice and reconciliation. It's fast-paced, with good dialog and characters, a strong pro-life story, plot surprises and even a seeming miracle. It is frank in treating the real world in which we and our faith exist, but I make it second here because of its basic joylessness.

Third Place

Song of the Dove by Kay Murdy, ACTA Publications, Chicago, IL

This is a lovely story -- a challenging and creative tale, brightly-imagined, attractively written -- a pleasant one-night read. The author makes Mary (Miryam) and her family seem real, rather like people we know in our own hectic lives, and that's a delight. We really know little from the Gospels about the life and times of Jesus's mother, so we appreciate this author's imagining young Miryam's family and surroundings, her problems and joys, and especially her startling call from God -- what that meant for her and those around her, and what it means today.

Honorable Mention

Miram: Repentance and Redemption in Rome by Cheryl Dickow, Bezalel Books, Waterford, MI

This book has several different levels. On the one hand, yes -- it is a novel, with a well-imagined story and characters, along with some well-known real people mixed in, but it's also intended as, and is, a spiritual guide with holy references and quotations. These distract from the story and make the overall effect more devotional than literary.