

## **B01: POPULAR PRESENTATION OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH**

### **First Place**

*One Ordinary Sunday* by Paula Huston, Ave Maria Press

In a marvelous story-telling form using the Mass for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Paula Huston, a convert, takes readers on a scintillating survey of the Mass, its antecedents, significance and the excitement of its various parts. Whatever one's own pilgrimage has been like, no one will come away from a reading of this gem without a firmer appreciation for the Mass as the bedrock of Catholic celebration.

### **Second Place**

*Taste and See: Experiencing the Goodness of God with Our Five Senses* by Ginny Kubitz Moyer, Loyola Press

Arguing that "God speaks to us through our senses," the author (a writer, wife and mother) proves her point with delightful examples and a flair for telling them well. Here is a reminder that, regardless of one's feelings at the moment, God is ever-present in the mundane and the sublime.

### **Third Place**

*Gift of Death - A Message of Comfort and Hope* by Monica Hannan, Author and Cliff Naylor, Editor, Semper Distinguit Publications

Relying on personal anecdotes, scripture, psychology, medical practice, theology and the pastoral experience of others the author takes the sting out of the process and the aftermath of dying. Hers is a message of comfort and hope, as the book's subtitle suggests.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Breathing Life into the Church: Making Sense of Vatican II* by Reverend John G. Hillier, Ph.D., Diocese of Metuchen

A by-the-book analysis of the documents of Vatican II and their impact on the life of the Church with the whole being personalized by the author's own experiences and recollections.

## **B02a: SPIRITUALITY: Soft Cover**

### **First Place**

*Always Discerning: An Ignatian Spirituality for the New Millennium* by Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ, Loyola Press

A wonderful title that enforces the truth that every person has the capacity to discern the movements of the Holy Spirit. Using Scripture, Ignatian wisdom, and the words of Pope Francis, Fr. Tetlow's clear and positive approach to discernment will encourage, inform, and guide the reader. His chapter on "Living Dissed" is particularly useful for navigating our way in today's world.

### **Second Place**

*Live Like Francis: Reflections on Franciscan Life in the World* by Jovian Weigel, OFM & Leonard Foley, OFM / Diane M. Houdek, OFS, Franciscan Media

So many books on St. Francis, and yet, this one stands out as truly Francis-like, i.e., uncluttered and accessible for the ordinary spiritual seeker. The 52 brief chapters include various ways to grasp the way of Francis and to attain a richer, fuller love and appreciation of God and the blessings of God's creation.

### **Third Place**

*With God in America: The Spiritual Legacy of an Unlikely Jesuit* by Walter J. Ciszek, SJ; John M. DeJak; Marc Lindeijer, SJ, Loyola Press

Americans take notice--the footprints of Fr. Walter Ciszek have left a profound impact on the country of his birth. It was not his style to impress others with his difficult past, but to focus on God's love in the here and now. Readers will see Christ and seek Him through the humble and God-centered life that Fr. Ciszek shared despite physical limitations.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Act Justly, Love Tenderly: Lifelong Lessons in Conscience and Calling* by John Neafsey, Orbis Books

*Beyond Me, My Selfie, and I: Finding Real Happiness in a Self-Absorbed World* by Teresa Tomeo, Franciscan Media

## **B02b: SPIRITUALITY: Hard Cover**

### **First Place**

*The Spirit, the Affections, and the Christian Tradition* edited by Dale M. Coulter and Amos Yong, University of Notre Dame Press

This is a fascinating collection of essays -- by authors from a variety of different Christian traditions -- on the place of affections in the spiritual life. The book begins with the patristic era and moves forward chronologically through historical eras and movements. Some chapters focus on particular authors, such as Augustine or Pascal. Rare is the academic collection, with so many contributors, that coheres as a book. This one does, and a fine book it is.

### **Second Place**

*I Believe: The Promise of the Creed* by Pope Francis, Orbis Books

This is a beautiful collection, carefully compiled from a wide variety of sources. The official documents are well represented, but so are the more spontaneous comments from the Holy Father's Masses at Santa Marta. Since the book's sections track the text of the creed, it provides a useful overview of Pope Francis' approach to the whole of the faith in its various parts.

### **Third Place**

*Blessed Among Us* by Robert Ellsberg, Liturgical Press

Robert Ellsberg is always engaging and informative. This book introduces us, day by day, to a great cloud of witnesses, some Catholic and some not. In these pages readers will encounter some heroes previously unknown, but well worth knowing.

## **B03: THEOLOGY**

### **First Place**

*I Want You to Be* by Tomáš Halík, University of Notre Dame Press

The Czech theologian, Thomáš Halík, explores the theme of "the God of Love" in a manner that speaks to the challenges of our time. He embraces the possibility that "God approaches us more as a question than an answer," and suggests that we might well do the same of God. This is his "interim report" on his journey of faith, and invites us to accompany him along that way. This is a compelling text for uncertain times.

### **Second Place**

*Prophetic Obedience: Ecclesiology for a Dialogical Church* by Bradford E. Hinze, Orbis Books

This book engages the ecclesiological priorities outlined by the Second Vatican Council and prioritized by Pope Francis. In this engaging constructive theological project, Professor Hinze builds on the local struggles of the Archdiocese of New York to realize a "People of God" ecclesiology in order to highlight principles relevant for the whole Church.

### **Third Place**

*Justice as Virtue: A Thomistic Perspective* by Jean Porter, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

This book invites the reader to encounter a Thomistic understanding of justice as a virtue. In an era when theological discourse is dominated by social scientific considerations of this question, Professor Porter reminds us that the Catholic tradition has a treasury of wisdom that can enrich our exploration of the priority of justice in the Christian life.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Taking Pascal's Wager: Faith, Evidence and the Abundant Life* by Michael Rota, InterVarsity Press

This book retrieves an early modern apologetical argument and explores its contemporary relevance.

## **B04a: SCRIPTURE: Popular Studies**

### **First Place**

*A New Heaven, A New Earth: The Bible and Catholicity* by Dianne Bergant, Orbis Books

Bergant makes a significant contribution to her research in attempting to reconcile the findings of contemporary science, which is cosmocentric with the religious meaning of the bible. Each chapter examines selected Biblical passages in attempting to uncover the integrity of creation. The author demonstrates the interconnectedness of the Earth, and all creatures of the Earth. Thus, Bergant shows a catholicity that is universal and encompassing all. *A New Heaven and A New Earth* encourages the ongoing study of Scripture, Theology and Science.

### **Second Place**

*What Do You Seek?* by Michael J. Buckley, SJ, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Buckley chooses fourteen questions from the Gospel of John, within which a personal disclosure may occur. These personal questions reveal facts to the person that are uninterrupted. The questions of Jesus lead to the supremacy of Truth and Conscience and encounter with the Absolute.

### **Third Place**

*Opening the Scriptures: Bringing the Gospel of John to Life Insight and Inspiration* by George Martin, Our Sunday Visitor

George Martin, an eminent biblical scholar, has written a comprehensive commentary on the Gospel of John. The author's research focuses on the Gospel "According to John" the title from the earliest manuscripts. Martin emphasizes the importance of the proclamations of John because in them one hears the voice of the Risen Jesus. The reflection questions placed throughout the book make it valuable for Lectio-Divino and prayerful conversation.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Being There: The Parables of Jesus in a Different Voice* by William J. O'Malley, Orbis Books

*Panorama of the Bible: New Testament* by Stephen J. Binz, Liturgical Press

## **B04b: SCRIPTURE: Academic Studies**

### **First Place**

*Psalms, Books 2-3* by Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Liturgical Press

This book is a powerful look at the role of women as reflected in the psalms. It is extremely well documented and reads like literature coming out of a theology Program. The book is instructive as it offers so many feminine insights to ponder. (updated 7/6/2017)

### **Second Place**

*Wisdom's Feast* by Barbara E. Reid, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

This is an academic book with many footnotes and a strong back reference area. This book leads the reader into seeing scripture in a new way, looking towards the feminine influence in The Book of Genesis and in the New Testament. There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter to help with group discussion.

## **B05: LITURGY**

### **First Place**

*Three Great Days* by Jeremy Helmes, Liturgical Press

The great liturgies of the Paschal Triduum are the liturgical hallmark of the Church. Every liturgical minister involved in and responsible for these liturgies longs for a resource that will assist them in navigating the beautiful and layered elements of these liturgies. Helmes' insights, suggestions and experience based offerings will be a well used gift for those engaged in the celebrating of the Paschal Triduum. An excellent resource!

### **Second Place**

*One Love* by Paul Turner, Liturgical Press

Paul Turner's works always have a wonderful mix of liturgical theology and pastoral practice. This book is no different. The newly revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony will be the standard rite for wedding ceremonies in the Catholic Church for years to come. This pastoral guide offers a valuable and accessible resource for couples, wedding coordinators and presiders.

### **Third Place**

*Sacramentality Renewed* by Lizette Larson-Miller, Liturgical Press

Larson-Miller's work explores the complex issue of sacramentality in a thorough well organized manner. Her ecumenical approach is well researched, the breadth of references and her understanding of sacramental theology in the Christian tradition make this text a significant contribution to contemporary conversations for those who are serious about the importance of this topic.

## **B06: PASTORAL MINISTRY**

### **First Place**

*Cleansed: A Catholic Guide to Freedom from Porn* by Marcel LeJeune, Pauline Books & Media

Pornography devastates the lives of so many people, affecting marriages, family life and the Church. This is a powerful tool for pastors, confessors, ministers, parents, spouses, and individuals themselves to

help those struggling with the scourge of pornography to break free of its clutches, through the power of God's mercy and love, and embrace a new and abundant way of living.

### **Second Place**

*A Church on the Move: 52 Ways to Get Mission and Mercy in Motion* by Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press

This book provides practical, realistic strategies for the clergy, lay leaders and faithful to work at transforming parish life to lead others to an encounter with the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. This is a practical guide to implement what Pope Francis has asked the Church to do for the new evangelization.

### **Third Place**

*To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach* by Jared Dees, Ave Maria Press

Go and make disciples lies at the heart of the Church's evangelizing mission and this book offers insightful tips, inspiring stories and a compelling vision for how individuals and parishes can engage in the work of sharing the Good News.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Great Catholic Parishes* by William E. Simon Jr., Ave Maria Press

An excellent tool to help pastors and pastoral leaders have productive conversations about how to make parishes more vibrant, engaging, welcoming and faith-filled.

*What Every Catholic Needs to Know about Marriage, Divorce, Nullity and Remarriage* by Fr. Roger Keeler, Novalis Publishing

A very engaging, informative and faithful exposition of the Church's teaching on a subject that is often difficult to explain and to understand for many in the Church.

## **B07: PROFESSIONAL BOOKS**

### **First Place**

*A Handbook for Catholic Preaching* by Edward Foley, General Editor, Liturgical Press

A Handbook for Catholic Preaching is very well organized. It provides an excellent overview of historical, theological, and spiritual approaches. It is a valuable resource filled with a wealth of information on preaching that can be helpful to preaching at all levels of experience.

### **Second Place**

*Parish Finance* by Michael J. Castrilli and Charles E. Zech, Paulist Press

Parish Finance: Best Practices in Church Management is extremely well outlined. It provides a great overview on how to develop, understand, and implement a church budget. This book is certainly a valuable tool in the development and implementation of sound parish financial plan. It can be helpful to people who are not familiar with the development of financial budgets as well as those who have experience in the creation and implementation of parish finance.

### **Third Place**

*25 Lessons Learned in 25+ Years of Catholic School Development* by Frank Donaldson, National Catholic Educational Association

25 Lessons Learned in 25+ Years Catholic School Development provides valuable information and practical tips for the development, implementation and maintenance of an effective Catholic school environment. The book provides key insights from (25) years of experience and offers pitfalls to avoid as well as proven paths to success. The book provides very helpful information about developing and maintaining a positive learning environment as well as a positive spiritual environment. This is an excellent “how-to” book about community building and an essential tool in development and maintenance of an effective parish Catholic school.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*The Gift of Administration* by Donald Senior, Liturgical Press

*Redeeming Conflict* by Ann M. Garrido, Ave Maria Press

## **B08: DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**

### **First Place**

*Accepting the Mystery* by Walter Kasper, Paulist Press



Appealing in its unpretentious simplicity. From the velvety feel of the cover to its inside layout with ample gutter space and interestingly different page-to-page layout, a reminder that good things do indeed come in small packages.

### **Second Place**

*At Play in God's Creation: An Illuminating Coloring Book* by Tara M. Owens & Daniel W. Sorensen, Franciscan Media

A striking cover accented by ribbons of metallic green within the art is only the beginning of this creative volume. The art within, in running off the pages gives the feeling of the user's limitless possibilities of expression.

### **Third Place**

*The Spirit Within Saint Junípero* by Craig Alan Huber, Veritas Editions

End papers capture the spirit of the Southwest embossed with a melding of Christian and Native symbolism. Striking black and white photography throughout in a gallery-like format. Text is clean and appealing in its size and font, centered in generous margins. A book to display proudly.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*The Order of Celebrating Matrimony/Ritual del Matrimonio* by International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Liturgical Press

*Sharing our Gifts - Cardinal Wuerl: 10 Years in Washington*, design and production by Georgina Stark, writing by Mark Zimmermann, photography and photo editing by Jaclyn Lippelmann, Archdiocese of Washington

## **B09a: CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR TEENS: Children's Books**

### **First Place**

*Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World* by Pope Francis, Loyola Press

Who can top Pope Francis? This book is a compilation of letters and drawings sent to the Pope from children aged seven to 13, asking questions that include the whimsical and profound. Pope Francis answers their questions with honesty and simplicity, often commenting on the drawings. It seems clear

that he enjoyed the exercise. In full color and including snapshots of the children, *Dear Pope Francis* is delightful.

### **Second Place**

*The Strangers at the Manger* by Lisa M. Hendey, Franciscan Media

The award goes to *The Strangers at the Manger* but really should go to the whole series of "Chime Travelers" books, chapter books for the middle-school set, that tell of a twin brother and sister who get to fulfill the fantasy many young Catholics have about going back in time to be part of a Bible story or to meet a favorite saint. Without being too sweet, they tell of a loving Catholic family involved in their parish and their faith lives. All kinds of good role modeling are included.

### **Third Place**

*Momma, Momma, Who Made the Stars?* by Rosa Purcell, Lulu Publishing

A tale about mother and daughter mice walking home in the dark, and the unending questions children ask their parents. Lovely, simple illustrations complement the thoughtful text of the Creation story. Sure to be a bedtime favorite.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Rosa, Sola* by Carmela A. Martino, Self-Published

This extraordinary book contains some very sad elements which might be too much for a young or unusually sensitive child. A parent might want to read it before making the decision to give it to even a teenager. But there is much in it of love and family solidarity, as well as prayer and faith, and some proud Italian-American cultural references. It's well worth a look.

*Seven Riddles to Nowhere* by A.J. Cattapan, Vinspire Publishing

A page-turning chapter book with a seventh-grade hero who works with a group of friends to solve a mystery based on an elaborate scavenger-hunt with religiously based clues

## **B09b: CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR TEENS: Books for Teens & Young Adults**

### **First Place**

*Battle For His Soul* by Theresa Linden, Silver Fire Publishing

Loved this book! Will be passing on to my teenager to read. Really found myself thinking about the spiritual battle raging on around us. I found comfort in the author's explanation of the Angels that surround us. So many messages and explanations of the rolls of temptation and prayer in our daily lives.

### **Second Place**

*A Single Bead* by Stephanie Engelman, Pauline Books & Media

I don't think this generation knows the power of praying the rosary. This book shows how a young girl with a questioning faith learns to pray the rosary and the power it has. The exploration of depression and grief of the loss of a loved one is something we can all relate to at different times of our lives. The characters and story are all relatable.

### **Third Place**

*Felix the Shrine Cat* by Dr. Edith Elisabeth Maria Breburda, DVM, Ph.D., Scivias, CreateSpace

This book will reach out and speak to all the generations. I enjoyed reading something written by a vet, that while educational about animals, also can teach many lessons and truths of the catholic faith. Such an interesting style of writing! Can--and will--be enjoyed by many!

## **B10: FIRST TIME AUTHOR OF A BOOK**

### **First Place**

*Who Does He Say You Are? Women Transformed by Christ in the Gospels* by Colleen C. Mitchell, Franciscan Media

This is a welcome, warm, lovely modest book by a talented author about the place of women in the Gospels. It's a revealing examination of that subject, of great interest to women, young and old -- and men as well. Very well-written, friendly and easy to access, and a pleasure to read.

### **Second Place**

*The Unfinished Man* by Jim Wayne, Fleur de Lis Press

This is a strong novel--well-written and paced and important in our present society--which addresses the sad history of Catholic priestly sexual abuse, and parental silence, and suggesting good and positive responses.

### **Third Place**

*Christianity Matters. - How Over Two Millennia the Meek and the Merciful Revolutionized Civilization -- And Why it Needs to Happen Again* by David T. Maloof, 70x7 Publishing

More than 50 tributes to people whose contributions to Christianity are outstanding.

### **Honorable Mention**

*The Spirit Within Saint Junípero* by Craig Alan Huber, Veritas Editions

Unique in our competition, this large powerful entry wins Honorable Mention for its dominating and stark black and white images, loving and revealing text and organization into the three phases of this saint's remarkable holy career.

## **B11: FAMILY LIFE**

### **First Place**

*Experts in Humanity: A Journey of Self-Discovery and Healing* by Josephine Lombardi, Novalis Publishing

This could be a wonderful tool for spiritual counseling. The purpose of the book among other things is to enable each person to discover and experience freedom that comes from the gift of grace. Through exploration the person can become the best version of themselves. The end of the book includes a journal with scripture passages that walk the reader through an eight step reflection to record individual responses to their journey of self discovery.

### **Second Place**

*Feeding Your Family's Soul: Dinner Table Spirituality* by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Paraclete Press

This is a basic primer for Catholic families to encourage and give them a foundation on basic Catholic truths so that they can truly be the first teachers of their children and fulfill their mission as domestic Church. The book has a year's worth of weekly lessons, activities, and family prayers, and it is even sprinkled with fun recipes. This could be a wonderful recommendation for companion reading for parents of children in Catholic schools as well as Religious Education Programs.

### **Third Place**

*Divine Mercy for Moms* by Michele Faehnle and Emily Jaminet, Ave Maria Press

This is a sincere book written by two friends and it is written "from the heart." It seems appropriate for small group discussions of a parish mothers' group. The book is filled with good hints for use with young families. They approach this short text through personal stories, prayers and hints for families through the wisdom and reflections of Saint Faustina. The book awakens a genuine appreciation for the beauty of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Advice Worth Ignoring: How Tuning Out the Experts Can Make You a Better Parent* by Dr. Ray Guarendi, Franciscan Media

## **B12: MARRIAGE**

### **First Place**

*Operating on Faith: A Painfully True Love Story* by Matt Weber, Loyola Press

Honest, humorous, holy. Weber is a fantastic story teller. His narrative reveals the beauty of the spirituality and theology of Catholic marriage in a style and genre young adults will find most appealing. *Operating on Faith* should be required reading for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage and especially for those who aren't.

### **Second Place**

*Pope Francis Talks to Couples* by Pope Francis, Paulist Press

The heart of Amoris Laetitia is presented in an attractive, readable layout. The book will be most useful as a handy reference for Clergy and Pastoral Ministers in their ministry of teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage and in preparing couples for Marriage. The addition of discussion questions at the end of each section would have increased its pastoral usefulness particularly to small faith sharing groups and sponsor couples. Overall the most gorgeous selections of Amoris Laetitia are made available in *Pope Francis Talks to Couples*.

## **B13: HISTORY**

## **First Place**

*Getting Religion* by Kenneth L. Woodward, Penguin Random House

This is a champion book, a treasure to have, read and retain, and the best in this year's contest at several levels. It's concerned with Religion in America these last 50 years, but contains a lot more than that--written by a journalist eminently qualified as observer-commentator, and a fine writer. It's engaging, informative and entertaining. Woodward writes with the authority, boldness, wisdom and humor he honed in his many years as *Newsweek* Religion editor and has now produced this major modern reference volume which benefits, as we do, from his experience and expertise.

## **Second Place**

*The Lion of Münster: The Bishop Who Roared Against Nazis* by Fr. Daniel Utrecht, TAN Books

What a great title that is, and would have seemed to the people of Muenster then, for their big, strong archbishop--over six feet tall and a no-nonsense type--a tough, noble, articulate churchman who spoke out and acted against the Nazis and what they were doing to the Germans. He put himself in mortal danger then, and after the war struggled with British occupiers, giving strength and hope to his people in those terrible times. This is a top-level tale--with fine writing and good storyline--of a Church hero who should be better-known.

## **Third Place**

*The Enthusiast* by Jon M. Sweeney, Ave Maria Press

This is the remarkable and well-written tale of Elias, a disciple and close friend of St. Francis of Assisi who went astray making the movement into a worldly and wealthy organization, before eventually returning to the Order as Francis founded it. More than half of the book is about Francis himself and his life and impact, not that friend. Still, it's a fine book deserving of high recognition.

## **Honorable Mention**

*Parish School: Revised and Expanded Edition* by Timothy Walch, National Catholic Educational Association

This is a vital resource of information, history and the still-current need for Catholic schools in America. It's filled with facts, figures and fascinating documentation, and is certainly essential for educators and others concerned with our schools.

## **B14: BIOGRAPHY**

### **First Place**

*Joseph Bernardin* by Steven P. Millies, Liturgical Press

Of the three titles submitted from the "People of God" series, this title seemed to me most appealing, it succeeded in making Cardinal Bernardin even more approachable and there was a real love and sincerity of purpose that seemed to naturally flow in the telling of his story.

### **Second Place**

*Elizabeth Johnson* by Heidi Schlumpf, Liturgical Press

This contribution provides a helpful understanding and a respected perspective of Sister Elizabeth Johnson and her ministry. Although her theology is dismissed out of hand by some, it is a necessary contribution to a discussion that must be engaged. After reading this wonderful little volume I have even more of a profound respect for Elizabeth, not only as a theologian but perhaps even more as a woman of faith.

### **Third Place**

*Henri Nouwen: His Life and Spirit* by Kevin Burns, Franciscan Media

At first glance I thought "just what we need, another book about Henri Nouwen," but this little tome effectively captures something of his spirit which has been missing in some other biographies. I was especially struck with the real love that people experienced with Henri and their dedication, not so much to him, but more to what they understood was his authentic struggle to believe and to apply in his own life what he preached: that you are loved and that you are precious. Although it has been noted before that he died alone for some reason, this sad result became all the more real to me in this reading. I felt a connection with the experience.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Blessed Among Us* by Robert Ellsberg, Liturgical Press

## **B15: GENDER ISSUES**

### **First Place**

*Women Deacons?* edited by Phyllis Zagano, Liturgical Press

Dr. Zagano offers a deep understanding of the lost roles of women deacons in the church, supporting the importance of reestablishing the role for women. Essays on the diaconate for women were translated by other authors supporting that women were ordained deacons particularly in the East for centuries. The diaconate was "lost" to women in the West sooner. She and her colleagues make an excellent case for the reestablishment of the diaconate for women.

### **Second Place**

*The Strength of Her Witness: Jesus Christ in the Global Voices of Women* by Elizabeth A. Johnson, Orbis Books

Johnson has done an excellent job in bringing together differing viewpoints of feminist authors from countries around the world. The reader is given an appreciation of how Christ is viewed by these women and their experiences of Christ and feminist theology. These women give us their cultural perspectives and experiences of Christ in this world. It is a wonderful book to broaden our understanding of how women from around the world view and understand Christ.

### **Third Place**

*Claiming Her Dignity* by L. Juliana M. Claassens, Liturgical Press

Claassens has given a voice to women who have struggled throughout biblical times against persecution, and marginalization, as varying forms of patriarchy, kyriarchy, and/or heterarchy. She defines these terms and how they attempted to keep women from voicing their resistance in stories of the old testament. This is an important book for us to more deeply understand these old testament women and their extensive struggles.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Life after Youth: The story of one man's journey through the transition at midlife* by Sean D. Sammon, FMS, CreateSpace

*No Crystal Stair: Womanist Spirituality* by Diana L. Hayes, Orbis Books

## **B17: DIOCESAN DIRECTORY**

### **First Place**

*Diocese of Rockford 2016-17 Official Directory* by The Observer Staff, Diocese of Rockford



Exceptionally presented with a personal touch--photos of all the diocesan staff, priests, and deacons. Photos of all the churches with historical and current data make it a valuable reference tool. A hands-down winner.

### **Second Place**

*Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Directory 2016-2017* by Cheryl Dejoie-LaCabe, Lloyd Robichaux, Jonelle L. Foltz and MJ Cahill, Clarion Herald

Nicely presented with practical tabs for all the categories. Moving photos of special events give a pastoral touch to this reference tool.

### **Third Place**

*Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic Directory* by Chris Krause, editorial and Bertica Garcia Dubus, production, The Tidings Corporation

Personal touch given with individual photos of archdiocesan administration, priests, and deacons. General categories easily found with extended tabs.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence 2016-2017 Directory* by Marie Zagorsky, Laura Kilgus and Rick A. Snizek, Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence

## **B18b: CATALOG: Best Trade/Seasonal Catalog**

### **First Place**

*Catalog 2016: Winter* by OCP Marketing, Oregon Catholic Press

Fulfills its utilitarian purpose admirably but with a spiritual quote that links with the publisher's goal. A winner right from the beginning.

### **Second Place**

*Catalog 2016: Summer* by OCP Marketing, Oregon Catholic Press

The color bars and layout of new titles gives a moving presentation to a very usable catalog.

### **Third Place**

*Orbis Books Spring 2016 Catalog* by Orbis Books

Not only a good presentation of all titles but excelling in the cross-selling presentations of titles of like interest.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Liturgical Press Academic Fall 2016* by Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

## **B19: BEST BOOK BY A SMALL PUBLISHER**

### **First Place**

*Be Who You Are* by Bro. Mickey McGrath, OSFS, Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

A delightful mix of illustrations, aphorisms attributed to St. Francis de Sales and reflections on those aphorisms by the author-illustrator, along with short personal accounts by members of the Oblates of St. Francis. Every page is an invitation to visual or spiritual stimulation.

### **Second Place**

*My Heart Is Ready* by David Haas, Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

It's not just the author's contemporary poetic phrases of psalm verses that commends this book to readers. There is also an index that enables the reader searching for suitable prayer/meditation starters to find material geared to specific needs, holidays, celebrations or any day of the year.

### **Third Place**

*The Way of Transformation: Saint Teresa of Avila on the Foundation and Fruit of Prayer* by Mark O'Keefe, O.S.B., ICS Publications

Holding that transformation of self is a necessary foundation for a fruitful prayer life, Father O'Keefe discusses Teresa of Avila's teachings on prayer in light of their transformational nature.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Not Tragically Colored: Freedom, Personhood, and the Renewal of Black America* by Ismael Hernandez, Acton Institute

An intriguing polemic written by a black Catholic intellectual, a leftist turned conservative, who argues that the renewal of black life is one key to continued progress on issues of race in the American context of free choice.

## **B20: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

### **First Place**

*Tradition and Church Reform: Perspectives on Catholic Moral Teaching* by Charles E. Curran, Orbis Books

This volume reflects the wisdom, insight, and courage of the 56 year career of a theologian serving the church, in good time and bad times, yet always faithful and seeking truth. This work and his life are symbol of hope for parishioner and theologian alike.

### **Second Place**

*Field Hospital: The Church's Engagement with a Wounded World* by William T. Cavanaugh, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Cavanaugh explores economics, political thought, and the question of violence and war with competence and freshness, teasing out insights that challenge staid assumptions and always recognizing the weaknesses and strengths of a human church.

### **Third Place**

*Democracy, Culture, Catholicism: Voices from Four Continents* by Michael J. Schuck and John Crowley-Buck, Fordham University Press

Theologians from four continents worked together over a three year period gathering in Chicago, Indonesia, Lithuania, Peru, and Rome. This volume is the fruit of that interaction--truly a "catholic" undertaking. The 24 essays give a glimpse of the rich diversity of thought in these four continents. A rich banquet, almost overwhelming.

## **B21: FAITH AND SCIENCE**

### **First Place**

*Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe* by Mary Evelyn Tucker; John Grim, Orbis Books

A response by thirty-one Christian scholars, of diverse denominations, at a conference at Yale in 2014 to *Journey of the Universe*. This book suggests that Christianity needs a broadening of our theologies and ethics into a living cosmology. The essays suggest that Christianity contribute to make at this transition moment to support a sacramental communion which recognizes ecojustice and environmental justice for all on the earth. *Living Cosmology* offers the challenge of Christian Responses to the *Journey of the Universe* by participation in the mission of the transformative work for the environment, energy, gender, race and sustainable cities, so that the Great Work may continue.

### **Second Place**

*Turning to the Heavens and the Earth* edited by Julia Brumbaugh and Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Liturgical Press

Elizabeth Johnson's Prophetic address to the CTSA offered a challenge to the Theologians of the 21st century to complete the anthropological turns by turning to the entire interconnected community of life and life systems in which all are embedded. This requires a conversion of our intellect to the Heavens and the earth. Her prophetic voice of life and solidarity for all who are poor and victims brings a humane and a way of living for all people with each other and the earth. The essays call for a cosmological theology that will help us transform, reimagine, rethink and live in a new sustainable relationship with the world and all that is in it.

### **Third Place**

*On Earth as It Is in Heaven: Cultivating a Contemporary Theology of Creation* by David Vincent Meconi, SJ, editor, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

*On Earth as It Is in Heaven* is an anthology of scholars reflecting on the writings of the fathers and creedal statements of the church. They offer theological insights from a catholic perspective on environmental spirituality and ecological dilemmas. The authors draw upon philosophical and spiritual resources to address ecological responses in creative, compassionate and informative ways.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*The Believing Scientist* by Stephen M. Barr, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

*Defining Death: The Case for Choice* by Robert M. Veatch and Lainie F. Ross, Georgetown University Press

## **B24: FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP/RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

### **First Place**

*Public Theology and the Global Common Good: The Contribution of David Hollenbach* by Kevin Ahern, Meghan J. Clark, Kristin E. Heyer and Laurie Johnston, Orbis Books

This is a wonderful tribute to Jesuit moral theologian David Hollenbach. Father Hollenbach's doctoral students collected their writings to exemplify the practice of social ethics under the sign of the cross as is his hallmark challenge. He challenged his students to open their eyes to the suffering of the world which in turn leads to action to alleviate the suffering. The contributors to this book make many parallels to the writings of a Pope Francis. They reflect on the concept of justice and global common good. Two of the writers in a joint essay encompass social ethics under the sign of the cross when they state: "The cross reassures us that the God of the universe is with us and all who suffer ... and quoting Father Hollenbach, as it is the most particularistic of all Christian symbols." This is an enjoyable book to read.

### **Second Place**

*A Culture of Engagement: Law, Religion, and Morality* by Cathleen Kaveny, Georgetown University Press

This is a great book to use for a "Catholic" law school class. It is written in a good and comfortable style, and it is evident that the short articles come from either the author's articles written for Commonweal or her blog posts. While the book is readable, the articles are only "snippets" of the issue. Dr. Kaveny chooses an important legal case on a particular area and highlights the Church's position on the subject matter. It is a book that could be a reference text for the Church's position on contemporary legal issues as well as cultural positions of our times. She borrows the term "crisscross" to explain how "the threads of different traditions in different spheres of discussion" are brought together like a tapestry to provide a way of engaging religious identity and American culture."

### **Third Place**

*Hope for Common Ground: Mediating the Personal and the Political in a Divided Church* by Julie Hanlon Rubio, Georgetown University Press

All of the entries in this category are well written. This one is chosen for third place because of the quality of the competition. Rubio's premise is that common ground can be reached between liberal and conservative Catholics by finding the "space between the personal and the political." She thinks that Catholics can set aside their differences if they take time for conversations and if they look at issues more like Pope Francis does. The book has a lot to offer to a diverse Catholic audience.

## **B26: IMMIGRATION**

### **First Place**

*The Shamrock and the Cross* by Eileen P. Sullivan, University of Notre Dame Press

A fascinating and unique study that thematically explores 19th century popular fiction written by and for Irish American immigrants. Given the demographic importance of this community, their vision and experience of Catholicism did much to shape the structures and experience of the American Church. Well-written, intellectually satisfying, and free from polemics, Dr. Sullivan's book deserves a wide readership.

### **Second Place**

*Power from the Margins: The Emergence of the Latino in the Church and in Society* by Bishop Ricardo Ramírez, C.S.B., Orbis Books

Autobiographical remembrances frame concise, lucid chapters on the gifts and challenges faced by the Latino community. Bishop Emeritus Ramirez highlights the costs imposed by immigration policy, the strengths of family and popular religiosity, and the urgency and privilege of educating and pastoring people of vibrant faith. An important book for anyone seeking to understand a demographic that is increasingly important in our society.

### **Third Place**

*Living with(out) Borders: Catholic Theological Ethics on the Migrations of Peoples* by Agnes M. Brazal, María Teresa Dávila, Orbis Books

Academic but accessible to a lay reader, this fine collection of essays by an international community of ethicists and scholars provides a broad overview of issues relating to migration, refugees, immigration policy and pastoral care. Some essays present a human face to the costs of what Pope Francis named the "globalization of indifference" while others suggest theological resources to restore hospitality, community, and morality.

## **B27: COFFEE TABLE BOOK/RELIGIOUS ART**

### **First Place**

*Chagall* by Sylvie Forestier, et al., Paulist Press

Only superlatives are called for here. This is an extraordinary work in all its definitions: style, content, artistry, print quality. Not only that, one is impressed by the very vision of producing such a monumental work. The full-page representations of Chagall's stained glass windows are simply awe-inspiring, and the accompanying backstory on each and all is superb--and accessible to both the professional and the simply curious. The word "grandeur" is used here and there in this masterful work.

### **Second Place**

*The Spirit Within Saint Junípero* by Craig Alan Huber, Veritas Editions

One classy work, this is a visually captivating "biography" of a new saint, with the story told in stunning pictures. In black and white and large-page format, it is clear that only high-quality materials were used in the production--all to match the high quality of the photographs themselves. All of the elements combine to give us an ultra-rich experience, and true "sense of place," as we move through the life of this remarkable Franciscan.

### **Third Place**

*The Mysteries of the Rosary* by Daniel Mitsui, Ave Maria Press

A creative, instructive work, this adult coloring book inspires as it literally illuminates. The artist's work is dignified, detailed, original, and vivid. The accompanying texts beautifully validate and magnify this popular Rosary prayer-form.

## **B28: CATHOLIC NOVELS**

### **First Place**

*The Fragment* by Davis Bunn, Franciscan Media

This novel tells an engaging story about Paris, its Notre Dame Cathedral after World War I, and a piece of the True Cross, with the intrigue and dangers surrounding its preservation.

### **Second Place**

*The Unfinished Man* by Jim Wayne, Fleur de Lis Press

Sexual abuse by priests is a focus of this novel, plus the story of one man's courageous response to it--unattractive as that subject may be. It's that focus, and the professional manner by which it is handled, that make this novel well-worth reading and absorbing.

### **Third Place**

*More Than a Promise* by Ruth Logan Herne, Franciscan Media

This is a warm and friendly small-town story about a widower and his sons--and their new neighbor lady--and the pleasant relationship they build together. It's a fine story.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Castles in the Clouds* by Myra Johnson, Franciscan Media

*Cry of Nineveh* by Joyce Coronel, Holy Angels Press

## **B30: YEAR OF MERCY**

### **First Place**

*Doors of Mercy: A Journey Through Salvation History* by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, STL with Brian Kennelly, Saint Benedict Press

This devotional helps the non-scholar develop a sense of the Bible's overarching narrative. The authors tell the stories within the story--Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the Prophets, and Jesus--so that readers can see the drama as it develops, and see it in terms of ever-increasing mercy. This is excellent spiritual reading, even now that the Year of Mercy is over.

## **B34a: PRAYER: Books about prayer**

### **First Place**

*Prayer in the Catholic Tradition: A Handbook of Practical Approaches* by Robert J. Wicks, Franciscan Media

At over 600 pages, this book can seem daunting, but it is presented in manageable bites. Essays by 45 contributors range from a few to more than a dozen pages, from the scholarly and historical to the down-to-earth how-to. Each section is introduced briefly by the editor and the book touches on topics



such as prayer in different traditions, praying with the Gospels, difficulties with prayer, and others. Footnotes serve as suggestions for further reading; the only thing missing is an index. This hardcover volume deserves a spot on every Catholic bookshelf.

### **Second Place**

*Manual for Marian Devotion* by The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, TAN Books

Beautifully bound and presented, this handbook is perfect as a gift book, either for someone already devoted to Mary or for someone new to Marian devotion. It includes Church teaching on Mary, including numerous citations of conciliar and papal documents and Mary in Scripture as well as information about some of the approved apparitions and miracles associated with Mary. But the heart of the book is prayer to Mary: it provides a rich selection of both familiar and less well known prayers, including all the prayers to Mary to which an indulgence has been attached (with an explanation of what an indulgence is!). A selection of Marian poetry and suggestions for further reading conclude the book.

### **Third Place**

*Uncommon Prayer* by Michael Plekon, University of Notre Dame Press

The subtitle, "Prayer in Everyday Experience," says it all. This is a book about the ways prayer pervades or can pervade all that we are and do. It offers rich examples from the lives of the saintly and ordinary including the author's own experiences of life and prayer. This is a book aimed at a fairly sophisticated reader, one familiar with both religious and literary figures and their work, perhaps a bit of a reach for most in our secularized society, but well worth the effort by anyone seriously interested in the topic.

### **Honorable Mention**

*The 15-Minute Prayer Solution: How One Percent of Your Day Can Transform Your Life* by Gary Jansen, Loyola Press

A fine how-to for a beginner in prayer or someone who is looking for a way to jump-start a prayer life that may be feeling a bit stale.

## **B34b: PRAYER: Collections of prayers**

### **First Place**

*The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion* by Lisa M. Hendey and Sarah A. Reinhard, Ave Maria Press

The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion contains daily reflections for parents written by a variety of talented authors. Each day begins with a quote from Scripture, Saints or notable persons. The reflection which follows is short, personal and meaningful. A short personal prayer and a thought to ponder follow the reflection. The book is a treasure for all seeking wisdom, hope and interior peace.

### **Second Place**

*My Heart Is Ready* by David Haas, Clear Faith Publishing, LLC

After studying the psalm scholars and years of personal prayer and reflection, Haas has written a personal prayerful reflection on one hundred and fifty psalms in which he brings these ancient prayers to life as "psalm-poems". *My Heart Is Ready* has an extensive index which is an excellent source for personal and communal prayer, liturgical celebrations and pastoral situations.

### **Third Place**

*St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Holy Souls in Purgatory* by Susan Tassone, Our Sunday Visitor

Tassone has written a book of prayers, meditations and teachings based on St. Faustina's Diary. These prayers could be helpful when praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. In addition, the book contains many devotional prayers which are useful for adoration, private or public prayer for Divine Mercy. Tassone also added an index which includes questions and answers on purgatory.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*Prayers and Devotions for Eucharistic Adoration* by Various authors, Novalis Publishing

*Talking to God: Prayers for Catholic Women* by Julie Dortch Cragon, Franciscan Media

## **B35: ECUMENISM OR INTERFAITH RELATIONS**

### **First Place**

*Nostra Aetate: Celebrating 50 Years of the Catholic Church's Dialogue with Jews and Muslims* by Pim Valkenberg and Anthony Cirelli, editors, The Catholic University of America Press

The 50th anniversary of the Vatican Council's groundbreaking declaration on relations with non-Christians was the occasion for this scholarly volume based mainly on papers delivered at, or in response to the papers, an interfaith dialogue/conference held at the Catholic University of America under the

auspices of the U.S. bishops' committee on ecumenical affairs. Historical context, contemporary views and future possibilities are all part of a substantial mix.

### **Second Place**

*Four Scraps of Bread* by Magda Hollander-Lafon, University of Notre Dame Press

This potent, deeply personal collection of graphic vignettes, each no longer than a page or two, stemming from the author's Holocaust experience as a Hungarian Jew, speaks volumes in sentences such as this one: "I do not envy those who have never known hunger, because they will never know the joy of a crumb of bread." Subsequently baptized in France where she became a teacher, her book was published there and subsequently won several prestigious awards.

### **Third Place**

*Sin, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation: Christian and Muslim Perspectives* by Lucinda Mosher and David Marshall, Editors, Georgetown University Press

Scholarly papers and dialogue points from the 13th in a series of interfaith seminars held at Georgetown University under the heading Building Bridges.

### **Honorable Mention**

*Martin Luther: An Ecumenical Perspective* by Walter Kasper, Paulist Press

In a short, highly sophisticated essay, the former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, argues that, viewed as a reformer, Martin Luther has a particular relevance to the contemporary ecumenical movement.

## **B38: POPE FRANCIS**

### **First Place**

*Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World* by Pope Francis, Loyola Press

Destined to be a classic. The layout is brilliant with an image of children's actual letters and accompanying art work on the left page alongside their photo, age, country. On the right page is the Holy Father's response. The children's letters contain some bold, difficult and timeless questions about life, death, suffering, injustice which Pope Francis answers directly with compassion. Pope Francis'

responses are theological gems in the language of a loving grandfather; a folksy, pastoral tone indicative of the Holy Father. This book should be in every home with children ages 8-18 as well as in the homes of all who seek honest, clear answers to timeless questions on the human experience. Humor and humanity brighten colorful and creative book.

### **Second Place**

*Pope Francis Takes the Bus, and Other Unexpected Stories* by Rosario Carello, Franciscan Media

This book provides a treasure trove of stories about the life of Pope Francis no where else to be found. Playfully arranged according to the letters of the alphabet, (J is for Jesuits, K is for Kisses...) the author invites the reader to come to know more intimately the man and ministry of Jorge Bergoglio. Carello tells us charming, heart warming stories of Pope Francis in "Pope Francis Takes the Bus". These stories reveal Pope Francis' genuine desire to follow and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and inspire the reader to do the same.

### **Third Place**

*What Pope Francis Really Said: Words of Comfort and Challenge* by Tom Hoopes, Franciscan Media

*What Pope Francis Really Said* offers a closer look at the words of Pope Francis. Hoopes provides clarity to some of the most misunderstood statements of the Holy Father and enables the reader to better understand how Pope Francis applies the timeless teachings of the Church to modern situations. It is an inspiring and insightful read. It moves the reading beyond sound bites and headlines to a deeper appreciation for truth.

### **Honorable Mentions**

*A Church of the Poor: Pope Francis and the Transformation of Orthodoxy* by Clemens Sedmak, Orbis Books

This is a brilliant theological text that integrates some of the best thinking on Catholic Social Ethics, Political Philosophy, Moral Theology and Ecclesiology. The bibliography contains not only the brightest in modern theologians, but timeless geniuses. It is not a book for the beach, but rather for quiet, careful reading, seeking wisdom to discern how to be an authentic witness to Christ in a materialistic world.

*The Complete Encyclicals, Bulls, and Apostolic Exhortations* by Pope Francis, Ave Maria Press

## **B39: MOTHER TERESA**

### **First Place**

*St. Teresa of Calcutta: Missionary, Mother, Mystic* by Kerry Walters, Franciscan Media

This beautifully written biography is a model of contemporary hagiography: modest, intelligent, theologically informed and spiritually sensitive.

### **Second Place**

*Advent with Saint Teresa of Calcutta: Daily Meditations* by Heidi Hess Saxton, Franciscan Media

Aptly chosen quotes from St. Teresa enhance the author's prayerful reflections in this meditative approach to the Advent readings.

## **B40: POETRY**

### **First Place**

*In the Beginning Was Love: Contemplative Words of Robert Lax* by Robert Lax (poet) and Steve T. Georgiou (editor), Templegate Publishers

Although awards were the last thing Robert Lax was seeking in life, this collection of contemplative poetry is an absolute winner. Lax, who received highest praise from such diverse greats as Thomas Merton and Jack Kerouac, is a poet who deserves to be better known...and, given that, he will reach the status of a poet who is much loved. The book itself is a treasure. In one of Lax's poems he writes: "to touch life, to know life, we must somehow bang into it; though if we stand off it, it will come & grasp us." This book collection indeed grasps the reader and it is hoped many readers will "bang into it."

### **Second Place**

*The Kind of Brave You Wanted to Be* by Brian Doyle, Liturgical Press

Anything by writer Brian Doyle needs to be examined. Anything by Brian Doyle brings delight. The writer of back-cover copy on this book hit the nail-head directly: "Brian Doyle's uncategorizable form is the brief story dressed like a poem but with the loose lyricism and verve of an essay." I would only add to that the measure of "pure heart" that is always evident in Doyle's writing. His verses are full of love of humanity and love of the Divine.

### **Honorable Mention**

*The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek* by Abraham Terian, Liturgical Press

A handsome and valuable volume offering a variety of writings from a learned tenth-century monk and mystic. Liturgical Press is to be admired for continuing to recognize that scholars (and would-be scholars) rely on the availability of such well-researched and spiritually nourishing texts.