Dear Friends,

If your eyes find these words without already knowing Liturgical Press, we here at the Press feel you have found the proverbial needle in the haystack. UNESCO estimates that, worldwide, around 2.5 million books are published every year. We are honored to make available about 120 of those! And while we do realize we are not exactly a major player, we take great pride in what and who we publish.

In much of professional life, the ongoing challenge of seeing the forest for the trees (or, sometimes, vice-versa) is hard to avoid. So too in publishing. This is one reason I like working on a new catalog: it helps me to step back and take a wider look of the work we and our authors are involved and invested in. In a time where so much of the stuff whirling around us seems intent on splitting us up into manageable, ideological factions, it reminds me that even for a very moderately sized publisher we offer remarkable content on a solid breadth of topics. And I see again how the sum of the parts of this content reveal a universal (“catholic”) claim and vision for seeking—and belonging to—the Divine enfolded in the world, in the communion of human beings, and, indeed, of all creation.

In these pages you will find a selection of our modest output of new and recently released titles. We hope you will see in it a little forest of Christian protests of hope in the face of the attempts to exploit our interdependence and the sacredness of life in all its forms.

Hans Christoffersen
Publisher
Academic and Monastic Markets
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Stay connected with LITURGICAL PRESS

Liturgical Press was founded by the Benedictines of Saint John’s Abbey—saintjohnsabbey.org—in 1926.
SIX years into the papacy of Pope Francis, Catholics are still figuring out how to respond to his image of the church as a field hospital—a church that goes into the streets rather than remaining locked up behind closed doors. Marriage and family are primary sites of the field hospital, called to meet people’s need for healing and accompaniment with compassion and love. The authors of this collection—all lay, a mix of single and married, traditional and progressive Catholics—take up this work. They offer practical wisdom from and critical engagement with the Catholic tradition but avoid rehashing decades-old theological debates. Instead, their essays engage with and respond to realities shaping contemporary family life, like religious pluralism, technology, migration, racism, sex and gender, incarceration, consumerism, and the call to holiness. The result is a collection that envisions ways that families can be places of healing and love in and for the world.

Edited by Jason King and Julie Hanlon Rubio

SEX, LOVE, AND FAMILIES

Catholic Perspectives

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Julie Rubio
“Sex, marriage, and family mores are changing radically. Whether you are celebrating or alarmed, you can learn from the realistic, hopeful, and impactful voices gathered here. This book would make an excellent course text; no student would skip the readings and the discussions would run themselves.”

Lisa Sowle Cahill, Monan Professor of Theology, Boston College

Julie Hanlon Rubio is professor of social ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, California. Previously, she taught for nineteen years at St. Louis University. Her research focuses on marriage, family, sex, and gender. She is the author of four books, including *Family Ethics: Practices for Christians* (Georgetown, 2010). She speaks to a wide variety of public audiences and writes for popular venues such as America magazine, National Catholic Reporter, the Washington Post, and US Catholic.

Jason King is professor of theology at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He received his PhD from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He is the author of *Faith with Benefits: Hookup Culture on Catholic Campuses* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and essays in *American Benedictine Review, Journal of Catholic Higher Education*, and *Horizons*. Currently, he edits the *Journal of Moral Theology*. 
In November 2015, Pope Francis called on theologians to explore whether normal Catholic practice should be changed to allow Christians, belonging to other churches, to share fully at the table when they take part in a Eucharist celebrated by Catholics. Thomas O’Loughlin provides his contribution to that challenge in this volume. He argues that the various ways of thinking about what we are doing in the liturgy should lead us to see intercommunion as enhancing our participation in the mystery of the Church and the mystery we celebrate.

“In his usual eminently readable style, Thomas O’Loughlin presents forceful arguments on why Christians from different churches should share in communion with one another as they journey together that challenge all to serious reflection.”
Paul F. Bradshaw
University of Notre Dame

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9. Gathered as an Easter People
10. The Phenomenon of Conflicting Theologies
11. Where Do We Need to Go from Here? Conclusion: Non-Catholics at the Table: Now or Never?

Thomas O’Loughlin is professor of historical theology at the University of Nottingham, UK. He uses the tools of the historian to look afresh at how we ask and answer theological problems. O’Loughlin was elected president of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain in 2016. He is the author of The Rites and Wrongs of Liturgy: Why Good Liturgy Matters and Washing Feet: Imitating the Example of Jesus in Liturgy Today, both from Liturgical Press.

“A series of reflections on what it means for Christians to ‘eat together’ at the Eucharist draw with equal poise on canon law, profound readings of Scripture, and the experience of parish life. Both systematic teaching and challenge, they lead readers of all churches to reimagine local reality, and live it differently, in the light of the imperatives of the kingdom.”

Bridget Nichols
Lecturer in Anglicanism & Liturgy, Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin

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Bridget Nichols
Lecturer in Anglicanism & Liturgy, Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin
Globalization is uniting the world more closely than ever before while at the same time increasing the likelihood of division and conflict. Humanity faces problems of an unprecedented scope: vast inequality, climate change threatening the conditions of life on this planet, and a great population migration that includes human trafficking and desperate refugees.

What does this global plight demand of a church called to be a sign and instrument of the union of all in God? In this book, Mary Doak shows how the church must rectify its own historic failures to embody the unity-in-diversity it proclaims, especially with regard to women and Jews. Only then, and through responding to the demands of the current global crises, can we learn what it means to be the church—that is, to be a prophetic witness and public agent of the harmony that God desires and the world deeply needs.

Mary Doak (PhD, The University of Chicago) is a professor of theology at the University of San Diego. Her publications include the Divine Harmony: Seeking Community in a Broken World (Paulist Press, 2017), Translating Religion (Orbis Books, 2013, co-edited with Anita Houck), and Reclaiming Narrative for Public Theology (SUNY, 2004), as well as various articles on public theology, eschatology, and ecclesiology. She is currently serving as president of the College Theology Society and is a past president of the American Theological Society (Midwest).

“Doak has her finger precisely on the point where many critical lines of the church and the world intersect. In all cases, Doak strives for balanced and inclusive positions without abandoning her passionate, prophetic commitment to Christian faith and the urgent call to justice. I am glad to have this book to which I can refer the many people, young and old, who express to me their struggles over the very issues addressed here.”

Dennis M. Doyle
University of Dayton

“From its very beginnings, Christianity has utilized women and Jews in its texts and teachings to represent the abject ‘other’ or second-class creatures to be redeemed within salvation history, with devastating effects. Doak challenges Christians to confront their contribution to the justification of abuse of women and Jews in history and current contexts when they retain them as symbols rather than allowing them to represent themselves. Expect to read a book not only about being better churches but also about being better human beings.”

Dr. Cristina Lledo Gomez
BBI - The Australian Institute of Theological Education
Lisa Michele Wolfe

**Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes)**

“Lisa Wolfe is quick to acknowledge that the book of Qoheleth is not an easy read for feminists. Yet her ability to engage Qoheleth’s questioning of orthodoxy with a feminist questioning of Qoheleth lays the groundwork for a rich commentary that uncovers ancient and modern religious absurdities about hierarchy, gender, and class. Through the process Wolfe begins to create a place in Qoheleth for women—both ancient and modern.”

**Thomas B. Dozeman**
Professor of Old Testament
United Theological Seminary

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**Wisdom Commentary**

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WisdomCommentary.org
Is the Christian hope for resurrection still alive or has it become tired? How can we talk about the resurrection today? Gerhard Lohfink takes up the question of death and resurrection in this new book. He argues against the dazzling array of today’s ideas and expectations and seeks his answers in Scripture, the Christian tradition, and human reason. With his characteristically gentle but clear language, he reveals the power of Christian resurrection, showing it is not about events that lie in the distant future but rather occurrences incomprehensively close to us. They were long since begun and they will embrace us fully in our own death.

Gerhard Lohfink was professor of New Testament exegesis at the University of Tübingen. Since 1986, he has lived and worked as a theologian for the Catholic Integrated Community. His many books include No Irrelevant Jesus, Jesus of Nazareth, and Does God Need the Church?, all from Liturgical Press.

“Another outstanding book from Gerhard Lohfink, who can always be relied upon to come up with something fresh and up-to-date and written in the language of the women and men of our time.”

The Way

“Highly recommend this book as a profound invitation to reflect on the ultimate issues of death and life.”

Theological Studies

“Thoughtful, entertaining. . . . Asking big religious questions Lohfink takes aim at classic discussions of faith from a Christian perspective rooted in wonder and trust. This intelligent, gracious book is a welcome contribution to theological conversations about life, death, and resurrection.”

Publishers Weekly Starred Review
Mary E. McGann, RSCJ

The Meal That Reconnects
Eucharistic Eating and the Global Food Crisis

In *The Meal That Reconnects*, Dr. Mary McGann, RSCJ, invites readers to a more profound appreciation of the sacredness of eating, the planetary interdependence that food and the sharing of food entails, and the destructiveness of the industrial food system that is supplying food to tables globally. She presents the food crisis as a spiritual crisis—a call to rediscover the theological, ecological, and spiritual significance of eating and to probe its challenge to Christian eucharistic practice. Drawing on the origins of Eucharist in Jesus’s meal fellowship and the worship of early Christians, McGann invites communities to reclaim the foundational meal character of eucharistic celebration while offering pertinent strategies for this renewal.

Mary E. McGann, RSCJ, is adjunct associate professor of liturgical studies at the Jesuit School of Theology (Santa Clara University) and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. McGann is author of several articles and three books, including award-winning *A Precious Fountain: Music in the Worship of an African American Catholic Community* (Liturgical Press, 2004).

“While forthrightly exposing the global food economy’s degradation of bodies and environments, this book offers an account of food justice that never abandons the sumptuous flavors and joys of the meal itself. This is a food-forward spirituality of the Eucharist to savor and share in an ecological age.”

**Benjamin Stewart**
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

“McGann plumbs essential sources from ecology, food studies, agriculture, economics, health and wellness, social ethics, liturgical studies, and theology—and then in very accessible terms, shows the hope-filled potential of the Christian Eucharist as a paradigm to counter the vast injustices of the current global corporate food industry. A ‘must read!’”

**Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF**
Catholic Theological Union

“Responding to Pope Francis’s challenge in *Laudato Si’* Mary McGann provides us with a wonderful example of how sacramental theology and our liturgical celebrations can deepen our commitment to our planet and to true justice for the dispossessed and the hungry. Along the way she has given us a very accessible account of the complex global food crisis that we face.”

**John F. Baldovin, SJ**
Boston College School of Theology & Ministry
What does consumerism have to do with the sacraments? We live in cultures where our senses of meaning, identity, and purpose are often found in what we purchase. Apart from the question of hedonism, there is the question of how we orient ourselves in an environment in which we end up marketing our very selves. In this book, Timothy Brunk examines how this consumer culture has had a corrosive effect on the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. He also assesses how sacramental worship can provide resources for responsible Christian discipleship in today’s consumer culture.

Timothy Brunk is associate professor of theology at Villanova University, where he has taught courses on sacraments, care for the sick, and the interplay of liturgy and culture since 2006. He holds a PhD from Marquette University and has an abiding interest in the connection between liturgical practice and ethical action.

“This expertly researched text provides an insightful and practical guide to help Christian churches navigate the complex threats posed by consumer culture. Treating each sacrament in turn, Brunk enumerates the ways that consumerism has deformed many worship practices. This book is an essential read for all ministers and for anyone who wants to deepen their love for the sacraments.”

David Farina Turnbloom
University of Portland

“Living as we do in a time of heightened confusion at the intersection of Christ and culture, Timothy Brunk’s book is an urgent, insightful, and compelling reexamination of the church’s sacramental practice forming Christian identity, even as that practice must contend with a profoundly influential and not-so-innocent consumerist culture.”

David B. Batchelder
Pastor, West Plano Presbyterian Church
LITURGY

Diann L. Neu
Stirring Waters
Feminist Liturgies for Justice

For years, religious leaders and communities around the world have turned to the Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) for feminist liturgies for justice. Now—in celebration of the organization’s thirty-fifth anniversary—Stirring Waters gathers fifty-two of these beautiful liturgies, ready-made to help your community venerate powerful women of faith, develop a richer and deeper spirituality, and take real action for justice.

Use the liturgies in this book as a resource to nourish the souls and focus the passions of the people you serve. Help them reflect on great women like the prophetess Miriam and Julian of Norwich, provoke and disturb them on occasions like Earth Day and World Water Day, energize them on International Women’s Day and Black History Month, and rejuvenate drooping spirits with liturgies of healing and gratitude.

“Stirring Waters is exactly what the church needs right now: an inclusive, creative, thoughtful resource that draws deeply from the wells of women, past and present. Neu does a masterful job of bringing the feminist spirit to life through prayers, poems, and hymns.”

Jessie Bazan, MDiv, editor and co-author of Dear Joan Chittister: Conversations with Women in the Church

“Stirring Waters: Feminist Liturgies for Justice, Diann Neu’s new contribution to the development of contemporary spirituality, does more than simply write a chain of liturgies. It brings the art of meaning to the depth of reflection. If anything affects the growth of the faith as well as the spiritual life of the faithful, it is liturgy that touches the heart, expands understanding, and stretches the soul.”

Joan Chittister, OSB

“What an amazing resource of female wisdom and lived experience. Through ritual celebration, women all around the world can unite on those issues that matter most for the well-being of all life forms and the future of our planet. Pioneering WATER pioneers again.”

Miriam Therese Winter, PhD
Medical Mission Sister

Diann L. Neu is cofounder and codirector of WATER, the Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual, in Silver Spring, Maryland. A feminist liturgist and licensed psychotherapist, Diann lectures, teaches, and conducts workshops throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe and has published numerous articles on feminist approaches to liturgy, spirituality, and therapy as well as books of rituals.

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Alisa Kasmir

Hineni

In Imitation of Abraham

How do you encounter the mystery of the other? This is the central question at the heart of spiritual direction and central to the human quest. Hineni—presence—is not an answer to the mystery but a response to the challenge. At a time when people on the edges of religion increasingly seek out spiritual direction as a way of confronting life’s unanswerable questions, Hineni indicates a fundamental reality beyond labels. And in an age that seems to suffer from disconnection, hineni indicates a way in.

A helpful resource for anyone interested in spirituality beyond easy answers or (in)convenient labels, Hineni: In Imitation of Abraham is a stark exploration of what it truly means to be present—to yourself, to the one before you, and to the one we call God.

“Kasmir crosses boundaries of Jewish and Christian traditions, and her account also resonates with traditions unmentioned, like Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. I highly recommend this pleasant, musical, and personal read to those working in spiritual direction, as well as for spiritual practitioners looking to share and mirror their own experiences.”

Dr. Annewieke Vroom
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

“One will not read Genesis 22 in the same old way again. And one will view spiritual direction with a new sense of presence—to God, and to the companion on the way. The inclusion of eight personal interviews from an interreligious perspective shows how hineni can be lived across interdenominational and interfaith lines.”

Helen Rolfson, OSF
Saint John’s University School of Theology/Seminary, Collegeville, MN

“Alisa Kasmir is a native New Yorker who lived in Chicago and London before settling in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. There, with the help of her Labrador Pippa, she has long practiced spiritual companionship with individuals, groups, and at a senior rehab facility. Alisa holds a degree in spiritual direction from the Titus Brandsma Institute in Nijmegen and bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Northwestern University. Alisa was a classical singer and is the mother of two nearly grown sons.

This profound book shows what is at stake in the intimate relationship and interaction of spiritual directors with those who yearn for human flourishing in uncertain and difficult times and who seek to discern the ultimate orientation of their spiritual journey.”

Pieter G.R. de Villiers
University of the Free State, South Africa
Throughout the church’s long history, Christians have sought out wise mentors to guide them on the journey toward God. *A Science of the Saints* explores the dynamics of spiritual direction as revealed in the lives and writings of a wide array of exemplary disciples, from the Desert Fathers and Mothers to Thomas Merton, and from St. Teresa of Avila to St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein). This groundbreaking work sheds new light on an essential dimension of the Christian experience, yielding timeless wisdom to inform the practice of spiritual direction in our own day.

Robert E. Alvis is professor of church history and academic dean at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. His publications include *Religion and the Rise of Nationalism: A Profile of an East-Central European City* (Syracuse University Press, 2005) and *White Eagle, Black Madonna: One Thousand Years of the Polish Catholic Tradition* (Fordham University Press, 2016).

“In this volume, a spiritual director will find many enriching reminders of what kind of person the director should be, the natural and unique unfolding of the spiritual life in each person, and the still-relevant wisdom of a 2,000-year-old tradition of companionship designed to assist the human capacity to be enfolded in God.”

Norvene Vest, ObISB
Author of *Preferring Christ: A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict*

“Spanning the history of Christian guidance from the Desert Fathers and Mothers to contemporary expressions in literature and film, this groundbreaking book traces spiritual direction from its roots to its flourishing. Informed and inspired by this first-rate historical analysis, our own ministries as spiritual directors become blessed by the saints who preceded us.”

Susan S. Phillips
Executive director of the Graduate Theological Union’s New College Berkeley and author of *Candlelight: Illuminating the Art of Spiritual Direction*
Fr. James Martin, SJ, is one of the most recognized Catholic priests in the United States. In this compelling narrative, award-winning writer Jon Sweeney, probes Martin's early life, his experiences as a corporate executive, his call to religious life, his ministry and spirituality, his feelings about both the adoration and the criticism he receives from so many, and much more. Readers will come away with a much better understanding of one of today’s most interesting and influential Catholics.

“James Martin is one of the most important voices in Christian spirituality today and Jon Sweeney’s story of his life and his work will, I promise, make you want to be a better person. We need to define what Christian discipleship means in the present moment. This book will help you do that.”
Ronald Rolheiser
Author of The Holy Longing and Domestic Monastery

“Here’s what I can’t help but love about Jim Martin: his refreshing humanness, his God-help-us-all humor, his faith in Christ, so grounded, so full of search and questioning, so opposite of resting on your ‘spiritual laurels,’ so honest, so alive and unfurling.”
Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ
Author of Dead Man Walking and The Death of Innocents

“Audiobook also available! Audible: Length 5 hrs and 10 min. Exclusively available on Amazon, Audible, and iTunes!”

Jon M. Sweeney is an independent scholar and one of religion’s most respected writers. His books include When Saint Francis Saved the Church; The Enthusiast: How the Best Friend of Francis of Assisi Almost Destroyed What He Started; The Complete Francis of Assisi; and The Pope Who Quit: A True Medieval Tale of Mystery, Death, and Salvation. He edited A Course in Christian Mysticism by Thomas Merton, published by Liturgical Press. Sweeney writes regularly for America and The Tablet and is publisher and editor-in-chief at Paraclete Press. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
John Michael Talbot
Desert Dangers and Delights
Stories, Teachings, and Sources

The spirituality and lives of the desert fathers and mothers are often seen as the beginning and end of Christian monastic life. Their stories and messages inspire not only the most devout Christians but also the “nones” and the “dones.” In Desert Dangers and Delights, John Michael Talbot reflects on his experience as a spiritual father and a popularizer of Catholic Christian spirituality through his music and teaching. He uses his own stories, Scripture, and the stories and sayings of the desert fathers and mothers to show a radically alternative way of living and thinking in Christ. With questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, this book will aid all readers, from experienced monastics to those just beginning a spiritual journey with Christ.

“In this book, John Michael Talbot draws from the rich treasure of the wisdom of the desert fathers. Simple and impressive are the examples from everyday life, unsurpassed are the quotations of the desert fathers, which are still so relevant today. The book provides orientation for searching people in a time of disorientation.”

Notker Wolf, OSB
Abbot Primate Emeritus

John Michael Talbot is the founder and spiritual father of the Catholic-based community the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. He leads an active ministry from Little Portion Hermitage and Monastery in Arkansas and St. Clare Monastery in Texas. He is also a Grammy and Dove award–winning, multiplatinum selling, contemporary Christian music pioneer and a best-selling author of over thirty books.

“From time to time we all need to strip away the barnacles of the distracted life and get back to what is essential. With this book, you can immerse yourself in a world without the annoying distractions of modern technology, then really begin with yourself and go deeper than perhaps you ever have before.”

Jim L. Papandrea
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
What does it mean to be humble like Christ? In this book, Bernadette McNary-Zak explores various concepts of Christian humility in late antiquity. To help the reader deepen their understanding of Christian humility, McNary-Zak takes a close look at some of the ways different types of humility operated as a relational value in specific contexts involving ascetic women. With this approach, the author shows how, at the very margins of a male-dominated culture, the ascetic woman represented a form of renunciation of self that enabled her to function as a symbol of Christian humility for females and males alike. A life that is both affirmative of biblical precedent and subversive of societal norms thereby becomes a life lived in deliberate aspiration toward an unrealized eschatology.

Bernadette McNary-Zak, PhD, is associate professor of religious studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. She is the author of several books, including Useful Servanthood: A Study of Spiritual Formation in the Writings of Abba Ammonas (Cistercian Publications, 2010). Other publications include two co-edited books and a number of articles in her areas of research.

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2. Pedagogies of Theological Humility
3. Expressions of Social Humility
4. Patterns of Intellectual Humility
5. Rules of Mutual Humility
6. The Challenge of Christian Humility

“In a world where humility is often misunderstood, especially as applied to women, this book offers a deep and wide exploration of the concept. McNary-Zak gathers views of humility from ancient and modern sources into a resource unlike any other currently available.”

**Judith Sutera, OSB**
Mount St. Scholastica
Atchison, Kansas
To understand the life and thought of Thomas Merton, one must understand him as a monk. After introducing his vocation and entrance into the Trappist order, this book highlights some of his basic spiritual presuppositions. Relying primarily on Merton’s writing, Bonnie B. Thurston surveys his thought on fundamental aspects of monastic formation and spirituality, particularly obedience, silence, solitude, and prayer. She also addresses some of the temptations and popular misunderstandings surrounding monastic life. Accessible and conversational in style, the book suggests how monastic spirituality is relevant, not only for all Christians, but also for serious spiritual seekers.

“Recognizing that ‘if one does not understand Merton as a monk, one does not understand Merton,’” Bonnie B. Thurston skillfully illuminates the many ways in which Merton’s monastic life informed his spirituality and energized his witness to peace and justice. And, in prose that is as lucid as it is learned, she invites her readers to draw deeply from the wellspring of monastic wisdom that is central to Merton’s legacy. A must-read!”

Christine M. Bochen
Nazareth College, Rochester, New York, co-author of The Thomas Merton Encyclopedia

“Thurston argues that to understand Thomas Merton one must understand him as a monk. This careful study argues that point with deep insight based on her four decades of reading and writing about the Merton corpus. This book, extremely readable and unfailingly intelligent, is highly recommended.”

Lawrence S. Cunningham
The University of Notre Dame

Bonnie B. Thurston, after years as a university and seminary professor, lives quietly in her home state of West Virginia. She is the author of many books on Scripture and theology, including Maverick Mark: The Untamed First Gospel, The Spiritual Landscape of Mark, and Philippians in the Sacra Pagina series, all published by Liturgical Press. Her poetry appears frequently in religious periodicals, and among her published collections is Belonging to Borders: A Sojourn in the Celtic Tradition. She is also a contributor to Give Us This Day (Liturgical Press).

“One of Bonnie Thurston’s great gifts to us is her ability to write, when appropriate, about profound topics with a light touch—both accessible and illuminating. That gift is on full display in this wonderful distillation not only of Thomas Merton’s core spiritual teachings but of her many years of study, reflection, and prayer on these teachings.”

Patrick O’Connell
Former president of the International Thomas Merton Society and editor of The Merton Seasonal

Bonnie B. Thurston Shaped by the End You Live For Thomas Merton’s Monastic Spirituality Foreword by Paul Quenon, OCSO
Bernard of Clairvaux continually returns to the classical idea that the quality of desire shapes theological imagination. By attending to the multiple ways he develops and applies this insight, *Beyond Measure* uncovers a new depth of organic unity to the literary, philosophical, and theological strands densely interwoven through his writings. Bernard’s apparent iconoclasm with respect to art, affectivity, and the humanity of Jesus is revealed as an alternative mystical aesthetic, congruent with his program for monastic reform. The central movement of Cistercian spirituality from the carnal to the spiritual is shown not to elide but to recapitulate the carnal in higher spiritual expression. Further, this approach provides fresh understanding of the ways in which Bernard is at once “last of the fathers” and “first of the moderns.” In particular, a careful reading of works by Julia Kristeva and Jean-Luc Marion on Bernard reveals both the enduring brightness and vitality of his writing and the relevance of his work for people today.

“Slater’s innovative work is unique in taking into account both the theological as well as the artistic dimensions of Bernard’s writings. Attending to Bernard’s insights into the role of the imagination and desire in spiritual transformation, *Beyond Measure* resonates with current concern about the true self and an accurate perception of the world and shows how the divine works through distortions and turns all things to good. It sheds new light on topics such as art, experience, and freedom in Bernard’s corpus.”

**Raymond Studzinski, OSB**
The Catholic University of America

“From the beginnings of our Order, Cistercian monks and nuns have expressed their desire for—and sometimes their insistence on—seeing God in the here and now, *sicuti est* (‘as he is,’ 1 Jn 3:2), and none more than Bernard of Clairvaux. In this clear and illuminating study, Slater demonstrates to what extent Bernard considered this contemplative knowledge possible in this life, to what extent he accepted it as impossible, and how, by the transformation of desire, men and women could be brought closer to the impossible. Reading Slater’s book, we are renewed in the willingness to allow the Word to work on who we are interiorly in the unrelinquishable hope of coming to know him for who he is.”

**Bernard Bonowitz, OCSO,** author of *Truly Seeking God*
Bernard of Clairvaux

Various Sermons
Transcribed by Grace Remington, OCSO
Introduction by Alice Chapman

This last small group of Bernard’s sermons to be published in translation by Cistercian Publications rightly goes by the title *De variis* in the critical edition. While most of them treat feasts on the church calendar, they do so in a somewhat hit-or-miss fashion. Three sermons also deal with God’s will, God’s mercies, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Two sermons for the feast of Saint Victor are a response to a request to Bernard from the monks of Montmarev; the Bollandist *Life of Saint Victor* appears here as a complement to those sermons. Besides the nine sermons normally assigned to the *De variis*, this volume also includes a sermon on the feast of Saint Benedict that was recently added to the collection in *Sources Chrétiennes*. The survival of this loose assemblage of sermons outside of the organized collections of Bernard’s sermons provides a reminder of Bernard as preacher and writer, able despite all his other activities to turn his hand to preaching when called upon. While they treat of disparate themes, they allow us to encounter the quintessential Bernard—speaking of the life of desire, the true meaning of holiness, and the awakening of the spiritual senses in the search for God.

Sr. Grace Remington, OCSO, has been a nun of Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey near Dubuque, Iowa, since 1997. She studied Latin at Grinnell College, where she graduated with a degree in biology. She currently serves the community as cook, gardener, and raiser of chickens.

Alice Chapman (PhD in 2006, University of Cambridge) is associate professor of history at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. Her areas of interest are monasticism, medieval political thought, and spiritual health and wellness in the Middle Ages. She has published several articles on Bernard of Clairvaux, and her book, *Authority and Power in the Writings of Bernard of Clairvaux*, was published by Brepols in 2013.
This book examines how the writings of the thirteenth-century nun Gertrude the Great of Helfta articulate an innovative relationship between a person’s eucharistic devotion and her body. It attends to her references to the biblical, monastic, and theological traditions, including attitudes and ideas about the spiritual and corporeal senses, in order to illuminate the affirmative role Gertrude assigns to the body in making spiritual progress. Ultimately the book demonstrates that Gertrude leaves behind the dualistic aspect of the Christian intellectual and devotional tradition while exploiting its affirmative concepts of bodily forms of knowing divine union.

Ella Johnson, PhD, is an assistant professor in the theology department at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, where she teaches courses on systematic theology, ecclesiology, social justice, and medieval women mystics. Johnson’s research focuses on women’s theology and piety in medieval Christian history, especially that of the thirteenth-century Helfta writers. She has published several book chapters and articles on Gertrude the Great of Helfta in peer-reviewed journals such as Viator, Magistra, and Medieval Mystical Theology.

“Ella Johnson’s passionate study explores the depth of the writings associated with Gertrude of Helfta, looking into both their sources in scholasticism and their effects for meditative readings. It discusses questions of theology, gendered authorship, and the medieval sensorium in new and inspiring ways.”

Racha Kirakosian
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Edited by Thomas L. Knoebel and Brian Y. Lee
Foreword by Pope Francis

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Fr. Thomas L. Knoebel has been a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee since 1969. For the past thirty years, beginning in 1981, Fr. Knoebel has served at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a professor and in various leadership roles. After retiring in 2013, he returned as president-rector in 2017.

Brian Y. Lee, PhD, is assistant professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received a PhD in theology from the University of Notre Dame in 2017.

Ormond Rush is a priest of the Diocese of Townsville, Australia, with a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. He currently lectures at St Paul’s Theological College, Australian Catholic University, Brisbane Campus.

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Bernard Bonowitz, OCSO, was born in 1949 into a Jewish family in New York City. In 1968, during his studies of classics at Columbia College, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1973 and was ordained a priest in 1979. In 1982, he transferred to the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists) at Saint Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts.

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Dom Marie-Gérard Dubois was born in Lille, France, in 1929 in a family of seven children. In 1947 he entered the Trappist Monastery of Mont-des-Cats, where he became master of novices and then prior. After a short stay as superior ad nutum at Cîteaux, Dubois was elected abbot of the Monastery of La Grande Trappe in Soligny, France. During his twenty-five years as abbot he presided over many commissions responsible for implementing the reforms of Vatican Council II in the Cistercian Order.

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Lewis White has been a professor and translator at the Language Center of the Universidad Tecnológica de la Mixteca, Huajuapan de León, Oaxaca, Mexico, since 2009. His translations of Aelred of Rievaulx’s Homilies on the Prophetic Burdens of Isaiah (CF 83) and of some of the liturgical sermons from Aelred’s Durham Collection (CF 80) were published by Cistercian Publications in 2018.

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