



MICHAEL E. DESANCTIS

#### OF MANY THINGS

o, what do you do?" This apparently innocuous question has often caused me anxiety. It's typically the first thing a new acquaintance will ask, and justifiably so, because how we spend our days can reveal quite a bit about what we value in life. Of course, some job titles give away more than others. When my father tells people he is an electrical engineer, they might ask him a question about a faulty light switch at home, but his job title does not generate assumptions about his politics or his religious beliefs.

On the other hand, my job as an editor of a Catholic magazine often gets a different reaction. When strangers hear what I do, they instantly make assumptions about me. On some level I don't mind. I work where I do because I believe this magazine does, in fact, help raise awareness of much of what I find good and wonderful about our church. I want to be associated with these things. But there are times I just reply, "I'm an editor" and hope there's no follow up.

It is said that when making polite small talk, one does not discuss religion, sex or politics. But that becomes more than a bit difficult when you work for a church whose keen interest in all three of these topics has been widely discussed of late. Recently a friend dragged me to a networking event in Midtown. While those around me chatted about hedge funds, marketing strategies and cocktails, I was quizzed on abortion, contraception and Christian-Muslim relations.

A few months ago, I stopped for a night at a bed and breakfast in California. As the owner showed me to my room, he asked, "So, what do you do? And why are you in California?" I said that I had been to the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and that I work for a religious magazine.

"I'm not a big fan of religion," he replied. "I don't like people telling other people what to believe." Insulting a customer's deeply held belief system seemed to me to be as poor a business strategy as

the fresh-baked cookies in the lobby were a wise one. But there was no anger in his voice. In fact, he seemed sort of intrigued, and even a little surprised by the fact that I was religious, as if to imply: But you seem so normal! "I'm not here to tell you what to believe," I said.

More recently, I was seated next to a woman about my age on an airplane. We chatted about poetry and the cost of apartments, and we discovered we were both writers. "What do you write about?" she asked. Here we go, I thought. "Catholicism, mostly," I told her. The plane's wheels touched down. "O.K.," she said, turning toward me eagerly. "Tell me everything you disagree with the Catholic Church about before we get off the plane."

I wanted to sigh. I wanted to scream. Instead, I just said: "What do you want to know?" She rattled off topics, and I told her my beliefs: the ones that are in line with church teachings, others I hold because my conscience deems it necessary and the ones that I'm still struggling with.

The woman leaned in and she listened, even when we didn't agree. It was not the easiest conversation I've ever had. But it was actually sort of fun. I found myself speaking passionately, wishing I had more time. I can only muster so much enthusiasm for discussions about New York City's sky-high rents. But this stuff—issues of faith and relaltionships and politics—I love.

I realized that as much as I sometimes dread being dragged into these conversations, most of the time I end up enjoying them. I don't have any interest in hedge funds or the weather. I would rather get straight to something deeper, more revealing. So I try to take these moments as a chance to prove some stereotypes wrong and to add nuance to people's impressions of Catholicism. I try to be honest, compassionate and open. It's not part of my job description as an editor. But as a Christian, it's central to what I do.

**KERRY WEBER** 

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#### Feminism and Patriarchy

Theological and doctrinal developments sometimes come out of officially discredited movements. Though Pope John Paul II and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith criticized the errors of liberation theology, for example, the church soon afterward incorporated leading liberation ideas like "structural sin" and "the preferential love of the poor" into its own teaching. Blessed John Paul, even as he tutored Eastern European countries on their transition to market economies in "Centesimus Annus" also reminded them of Marxian insights on alienation, exploitation and marginalization that are still valuable (Nos. 41-42).

In the same way, it is past time for church officials to recognize the proven insights of feminist theology and to dialogue with its critique of the injustices done by patriarchy. It is unfitting for all those insights to be dismissed as theologically "radical." Jesus' contemporaries held him in suspicion for openly keeping company with women. The Gospels of Luke and John and the letters of Paul provide ample evidence that women played key roles in the early church. Even in the patristic era, the Christian practices of celibacy and the love of learning led to the emancipation of upper-class women and to their friendship with men. That Christian-inspired social equality ended because the church failed to evangelize fully the military culture of the German tribes, who subordinated women.

Particularly when it comes to the equality of women, both inside and outside the home, the church should acknowledge its own historical inculturation, accept the legitimate insights of feminist theology and purify official theology of the distortions inflicted by patriarchical, pre-Christian Roman and later feudal Teutonic images of womanhood. For as the church proclaims the Gospel as the guarantor of human dignity for all, those vestiges of history continue to impart a counterwitness.

#### **Far-Sighted Leaders**

Too many elected leaders continue to subject the country to an especially ruinous trend, which is to put short-term political or partisan advantage ahead of the long-term public interest. Consider, for example, the recently passed House bill to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which is part of the Affordable Health Care Act. The reason given for cutting this fund is to use the money to extend for a year the low interest rate currently charged to college students. But the bill is a double fault.

First, in this economy, which has produced so few jobs

for graduates, there is no excuse for giving students such a short extension—except election-year politics. What will happen to the interest rate after that? Few economists expect the economic recovery to eliminate the need for low-interest student loans. Far-sighted leaders ought to make a better-educated work force a priority—more engineers, math majors, gerontologists, scientists, inventors, not to mention critical thinkers.

Second, it makes no sense to cut preventive health services. The fund's major expenditures are for immunization; local, city and state programs to reduce obesity and smoking; and the training of primary care doctors and physician assistants. The nation faces an epidemic of childhood obesity, an increase in diabetes, a prescription-drug addiction crisis and other preventable health issues, plus a shortage of physicians and ever-rising health care costs. Far-sighted leadership, in fact, established the prevention fund. It is one of many future-oriented parts of the health care reform, which is designed for long-term public benefit—healthier citizens—and ought to lower health care costs.

#### **Still Invisible**

The homeless man under a bush in the park and the bentover woman pushing a shopping cart loaded with all she owns are familiar sights. They strike a chord especially this year, the 50th anniversary of Michael Harrington's The Other America. He coined the term "invisible poor," who are unseen both because they are socially marginalized and because the affluent look the other way. Mr. Harrington, who died of cancer in 1989, would now be 84. Though he said the intellectual decadence of the neo-Thomism taught at Holy Cross College alienated him from the church, his years at the Catholic Worker and Catholic social teaching enriched his commitment to socialism. His biographer, Maurice Isserman, recently reported a conversation with Harrington's sons (The Nation, 5/14). What would Harrington do today? he asked. They mentioned his respect for European socialism and suggested he would regret that incivility dominates our political discourse and would be dismayed that 46 million Americans live in poverty.

In 1971 Holy Cross gave Harrington an honorary degree. Catholic universities should honor others who lift the veil of invisibility from the 49.9 million without health insurance, the 8.1 percent unemployed, those in low-wage jobs without benefits, the 46 million on food stamps, the growing lines at soup kitchens. They believe, as President Obama put it, that the growing gap between rich and poor is "the defining issue of our time."

# **Voting Out Austerity**

Europe's electorates have given their answer to austerity as the way to recover from debt and recession. ■ In council elections across Britain, in the fall of the center-right Dutch coalition government and in the Greek parliamentary elections, voters have rejected Germany's attempt to impose austerity on the European Union. In France, President-elect François Hollande's campaign message was simple—without growth there can be no recovery. It had the rhetorical advantage of being true. This minor revolution should provoke a reassessment of austerity in the United States, where the policy has likewise been prescribed as public debt mounts and economic uncertainty persists.

Sharp cutbacks in government spending—which would cause the loss of thousands of public sector jobs and deep reductions in social services and infrastructure spending-have been pitched as part of the counterintuitive recipe for a long-term revival of flagging national economies. Deficit hawks hope to reduce government debt and thereby encourage expansion in the private sector. But the swing to austerity, whether propelled by philosophy, as in Great Britain, or by the edicts of the credit market and the I.M.F., as in Greece, Spain and Ireland, has stifled growth while creating severe hardship for the European public.

Unemployment remains at Great Depression levels in Spain. Recession has revisited Great Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Irish economy has locked up. Whole populations are taking the hit for risky banking methods and speculative housing investments. Banks have been salvaged, for the most part. But so far, they have shown their gratitude for the public bailout by resisting new capitalization requirements and government re-regulation.

There are two main problems to solve: debt and the stimulation of national economies to provide jobs. Greece, with its complex of overgenerous social spending, flagrant tax avoidance and widespread corruption, is a special problem. But for the rest of Europe, a combination of economic stimulus, budgetary restraint and revenue-raising would help.

Mario Monti, the technocratic Italian prime minister, has proposed a number of stimulus measures for consideration at the European summit in June. Reportedly he has received support from Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. That is good news. Government budget-tightening is no way to reduce deficits and debt unless workers and businesses are prosperous enough to pay down their nations' debts with their taxes.

There remain viable options toward a more measured restoration of fiscal health in Europe by promoting job creation, tweaking monetary policy and retooling the European Central Bank. While some nations within the



European Union are incapable of expansionist policies, others, Germany primarily, can embark on pro-growth strategies that will benefit the entire continent. Lagging European economies can focus on resolving longstanding problems with corruption, government waste and tax collection that can help improve their national balance sheets.

A program of fiscal reform will succeed only if the public perceives that the cure is not creating more suffering than the disease. Some economists and political leaders continue to advocate shock treatment as a path to long-term solvency—surely a desirable goal—but this approach is seldom humane and threatens to create social unrest that could jeopardize the entire program of reform. Establishing more modest fiscal goals and reasonable social boundaries—a glide path toward fiscal stability rather than an emergency hard landing—is a more practical and responsible course of action. It is more amenable to the public and hence more likely to be embraced by it.

Pro-growth politicians should create face-saving space so that the austerity advocates, recognizing the economic facts on the ground, can step back from public positions that have hardened into ideology. Despite the economic calamity of our times, European unity remains a worthy goal; the political progress and economic integration achieved in recent decades must not be allowed to backslide because of a short-term imbalance.

Voters in Europe were not endorsing Keynes over Hayek when they went to the polls; they were voting out leaders who had brought them no relief from economic uncertainty because they failed to create more jobs and improve national solvency. They are suggesting moderation in government efforts to deal with historical overspending and government deficits by prodding economies forward, not by throwing them into reverse. The voters' instincts for change may be precisely the right strategy toward a fiscally and economically restored Europe. It would be a shame if politicians in the United States, who appear bent on repeating Europe's recent mistakes, do not learn from the hardearned wisdom of European voters.

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

#### Catholic Leaders Object As Public Attitudes Shift

atholic leaders rejected President Obama's declaration during a television interview on May 9 that "personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

"President Obama's words today are not surprising since they follow upon various actions already taken by his administration that erode or ignore the unique meaning of marriage," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a statement released the same day. "We cannot be silent in the face of words or actions that would undermine the institution of marriage, the very cornerstone of our society," he added. "The people of this country, especially our children, deserve better."

In December 2010, Obama said his views on same-sex marriage were "evolving" and that he "struggles with this," adding he would continue thinking about the issue. On May 10 the president said he had wanted to announce his support for such unions "in my own way, on my own terms" but acknowledged that remarks a few days earlier by Vice President Joseph Biden prompted his announcement.

On May 6 Biden, a Catholic, said he was "absolutely comfortable" with samesex couples marrying, adding they should get "the same exact rights" heterosexual married couples receive.

"I pray for the president every day, and will continue to pray that he and his

administration act justly to uphold and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman," Cardinal Dolan said.

The Catholic Church upholds the sanctity of traditional marriage as being only between one man and one woman and also teaches that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful, but across the country the views of many Catholics appear to be trending toward support of same-sex marriage. A poll conducted in March jointly by the Public Religion Research Institute and Religion News Service found overall Catholic support for same-sex marriage to be 59 percent, with 36 percent opposed. Support by Americans overall is at 52 percent, with 44 percent opposed. Among white Catholics 57 percent support same-sex marriage and 37 percent oppose it.

According to polls conducted over the past five years by a number of dif-

ferent research and media outlets, public support for same-sex marriage has risen from 40 percent in 2006 to majority support today. The demographic groups that showed majority opposition to same-sex marriage were respondents age 65 and up, white evangelicals, Republicans, African-Americans and those with a high school education or less.

In a statement on May 9, the Archdiocese of Washington said it "opposes the redefinition of marriage based on the clear understanding that the complementarity of man and woman is intrinsic to the meaning of marriage. The word 'marriage' describes the exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman open to generating and nurturing children. Other unions exist, but they are not marriage." The archdiocese said it would "continue to strongly advocate



for the federal government's existing definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

DEMOGRAPHICS

# U.S. Catholic Population At 59 Million

he U.S. Catholic population stood at 58.9 million in 2010, according to a new census of religious congregations. That figure was below the number of 62 million Catholics reported in 2000, but the difference is due to a change in the way data was collected during this goround, said Cliff Grammich, a researcher working for the Glenmary Research Center. Glenmary compiled statistics from 20,589 parishes, mis-



sions and other places with regularly scheduled weekend Masses.

The "2010 U.S. Religion Census: Congregations Religious Membership" study, released on May 1, showed that the number of Catholics is three times that of the country's second largest religious body, the Southern Baptist Convention, which has just under 20 million members. Catholic churches, missions or communities are located in 2,960 of the nation's 3,143 counties, more than any religious body except the United Methodist Church, which claims a presence in 2,991 counties and 9.9 million members.

The new study indicates a Catholic population that is significantly lower than two other often-cited sources. The Official Catholic Directory for 2010 reported 68.5 million Catholics, and the 2010 General Social Survey of the National Opinion Research Center estimated there were 77.9 million American Catholics, based on percentages applied to the entire U.S. population.

Grammich explained that the survey's findings are based on the definition of a Catholic in canon law as someone who is linked with the Catholic community through baptism and burial. He analyzed statistics provided by individual parishes on the number of registered households, registered individuals, infant baptisms, burials and Mass attendance to arrive at the final count. In earlier studies, less specific data was sought from individual dioceses rather than from parishes, he said.

According to Grammich, "the counts are the best that could be supported by religious data, sacramental statistics and survey data."

Sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, the study is conducted every 10 years and coincides with the once-

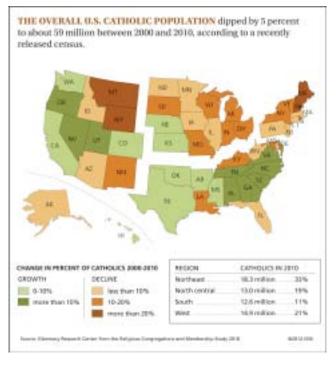
a-decade U.S. census. Data was also collected from Protestant, Jewish, Muslim. Hindu. Buddhist and other religious congrega-

Catholic parishes in the Northeast and North Central states reported the greatest losses in population. Grammich attributed the decline to the number of deaths outpacing infant baptisms. By region, the Northeast maintained the highest number of Catholics,

at 18.3 million. Elsewhere, 13 million Catholics lived in the North Central region, 12.6 million in the South and 14.9 million in the West.

According to the report, Catholic populations in urban areas of the Northeast and Midwest declined, while they grew in the South and West; the number of Catholic churches by region remained more stable. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Catholics lived in metropolitan areas of at least 1 million residents, compared with 69 percent in 2000.

The number of Catholics grew in 19 states and increased by 10 percent or more in 10 states: Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Virginia. The number of Catholics declined by at least 10 percent in 17 states—among them, Louisiana, Michigan, Maryland and New York, The density of the Catholic population ranged from 3.5 percent in Tennessee to 44.9 percent in Massachusetts.



#### 'Arab Spring' Evaluated

The consequences of the Arab Spring were considered during a seminar in Brussels on May 9, convened jointly by the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union and conservative blocs from the European Parliament. It was "a very bitter truth" that "democratization of the Middle East does not bring relief to the people who live there," said Konrad Szymański, a member of the European Parliament from Poland. He said that if the European Union wishes to remain credible on human rights, it "has to take a clear stance in defense of Christians in the Middle East." The Rev. Joe Vella Gauci of Malta, representing the bishops' commission, called the Arab Spring a crucial historical paradigm shift. He worried, however, that positive developments are "overshadowed by barbarous incidents." A fundamental outcome of Arab democratization, he said, should be "respect for all citizens; the elimination of parallel societies; respect for diverse communities and cultures; and the creation of socio-political systems worthy of safeguarding human rights and democratic values."

#### **Budget a Moral Bust?**

House Republicans passed a 2013 budget reconciliation package on May 10 that included cuts in social services despite an appeal on May 8 from the U.S. bishops. In a letter to Congress, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, wrote that "deficit reduction and fiscal responsibility efforts must protect and not undermine the needs of poor and vulnerable people." He said the proposed cuts "fail this basic moral test." Bishop

#### NEWS BRIEFS

On May 10 Pope Benedict XVI formalized the status of the 12th-century German mystic St. Hildegard of Bingen, "inscribing her in the catalog of saints." • On May 9 Pat Gaffney, general secretary of Pax Christi, appealed to South Korea's President Lee Myung-Bak to stop the destruction of Jeju Island, which is to be paved over for use as a naval base. • Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona signed legislation on May 4 that prohibits the use of tax dollars to contract with



Hildegard of Bingen

organizations that offer abortion as part of their services. • On May 7 in Michigan, a group of Catholic members of Legatus filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block a controversial Health and Human Services requirement that new insurance plans include contraceptive care. • Caribbean bishops on April 27 urged Suriname officials to uphold human rights laws after an amnesty was offered to people convicted in the massacre in 1982 of 15 people who had opposed Suriname's military government. • On May 4 Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia reinstated three priests who had been suspended because of allegations of past misconduct or child sexual abuse and declared five others "unsuitable for ministry."

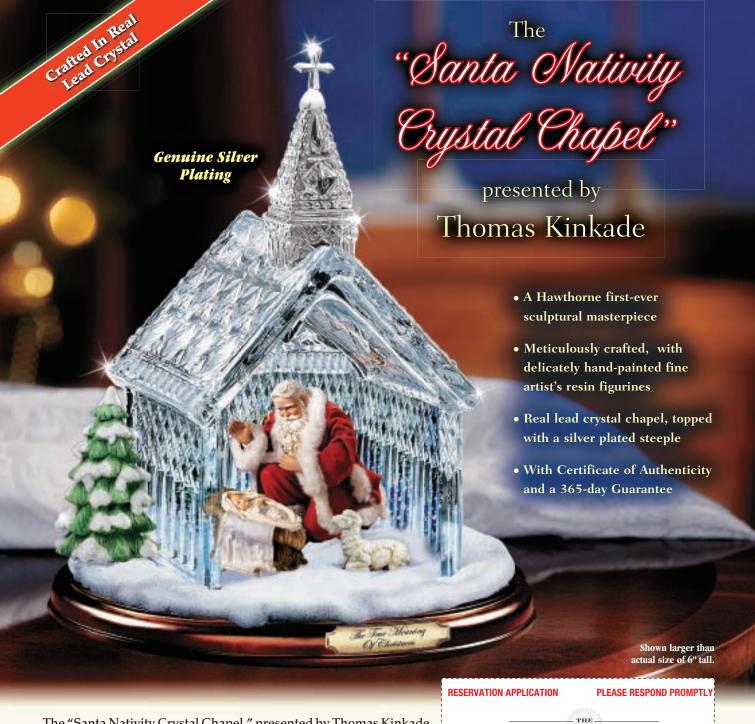
Blaire singled out an "unfair" proposal to change the Child Tax Credit to exclude children of immigrant families, "the large majority of whom are American citizens"; cuts to the nutrition assistance, which would affect all poor families and be "a direct threat to their human dignity"; and the cutting of the Social Services Block Grant, "an important source of funding for programs throughout the country" that serve "the homeless, the elderly, people with disabilities, children living in poverty and abuse victims."

#### **Irish Seek Dialogue**

Speakers at a conference in Dublin, Ireland, on May 7, sponsored by Ireland's Association of Catholic Priests, called on the hierarchy to open structures of dialogue with lay

Catholics about the future of the church. The A.C.P. has called for a reevaluation of the church's teaching on sexuality and a "redesigning" of ministry "to incorporate the gifts, wisdom and expertise of the entire faith community, male and female." The Rev. Gerry O'Hanlon said the crisis of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and its serious mishandling by church leaders have revealed deeper fault lines in the national and universal church. Participants pointed to the report from the recent apostolic visitation of the Irish church, which criticized a "fairly widespread" tendency among Irish Catholics to hold views contrary to the teaching of the church, as an indication that Irish Catholics are eager for reform.

From CNS and other sources.



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# Polarization Wins Again

ith less than six months to go before the 2012 November elections, two results are sadly certain: first, the voting public will be the most ideologically divided ever; second, the 113th Congress (2013-14) will be the most partisan and polarized ever.

Between 1972 and 2008, the percentage of Republican voters who selfidentified as "conservative" rose by about 41 percent, and the percentage of Democratic voters that self-identified as "liberal" rose by about 44 percent. Meanwhile, ever more citizens with more moderate views, politically less attentive people and 18- to 29year-olds either failed to register to vote or voted at anemic rates relative to more ideologically driven citizens.

In national election after national election, voter turnout among independents and other more centrist voters has been lower than voter turnout among their partisan and hyper-partisan neighbors. As Alan I. Abramowitz of Emory University writes in a newly released book, The Polarized Public? Why American Government Is So Dysfunctional, "Republicans have gone from a predominantly conservative electoral base to an overwhelmingly conservative electoral base," and while "conservative Democrats are not as rare as liberal Republicans," the "Democratic electoral base has a decidedly liberal tilt today."

As each party's electoral base has marched ever farther to the right

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(Republicans) and ever farther to the left (Democrats), each party's respective activists and elected leaders have gone still farther to one or the other extreme. Thus, as successive surveys on a wide range of domestic, economic, cultural and foreign policy issues reveal, at every national convention since 1972, Republican delegates were more conservative, and Democratic

delegates more liberal, than their party's rank-and-file voters, and even farther in their respective views from the American public at

This electoral polarization did not happen overnight or by accident. In a forthcoming tribute to James Q. Wilson, the award-winning former president of the American

Political Science Association who died this past March at the age of 80, the Brookings Institution's Pietro Nivola highlights one of Wilson's 17 books, The Amateur Democrat (1961), and recommends that anyone "contemplating the power of ideologues in both the Democratic and Republican parties today" ought to re-read it.

Amen. As Nivola writes, a half-century ago Wilson predicted that the Progressive "idea of the direct primary as the preferred means of nominating candidates," while breaking the illicit power of urban political machines, would in due course unduly empower "amateur democrats," ideological activists and elected leaders in each party defined by their "willingness to go down in flames over professed principles, and disdain for politics as the art of the possible."

'Amateur

democrats'

have

revolution-

ized

politics on

Capitol Hill.

Just one recent example is the rise of the Tea Party as a force in Republican primaries. In the aforementioned new book, Abramowitz analyzes American National Election Survey data from October 2010. Compared with other Republicans, Tea Party Republicans are more than twice as likely to claim a "strong Republican

> ideology" (45 percent to 21 percent) and also more likely to "dislike Obama" (90 percent to 55 percent), "oppose health care reform" (88 percent to 58 percent) and "oppose clean energy" (81 percent to 32 percent).

The disproportionate influence of "amateur democrats" in each

party's primary election politics has revolutionized and polarized politics on Capitol Hill. In an analysis of "The Polarization of the Congressional Parties," published in March 2012, the political scientists Howard Rosenthal and Keith Poole use various measures to track the level of polarization in Congress dating back to 1879. "Polarization in the House and Senate," they conclude, "is now at the highest level since the end of Reconstruction."

Rosenthal and Poole are numbercrunching scholars not given to hyperbole. To doubt the reality that they and other experts have now documented beyond a reasonable doubt, or to pretend that only the "other" party is to blame, is to vote for more of the same.



# Grading the Missal

Catholics across the country consider the New Translation.

The new translation of the Roman Missal was implemented in parishes on the first Sunday of Advent, 2011, six months ago. To explore how Catholics in the pews and behind the altar are receiving the translation, we asked four people from around the country who are knowledgeable about liturgy to describe what they have personally observed, heard and experienced.

The Editors

#### Mixed Messages

BY EDWARD FOLEY

n the morning of the First Sunday of Advent last November, we were prepared. The workshops had been well attended, the pew cards were in place, and the new settings of the eucharistic acclamations that we had been singing since September were starting: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Nine hundred of the baseing described in the communion of the Holy in the horizontal described in the baseing described in the horizontal Spirit be with you all." Nine hundred of the baptized thundered back, "And also with you."

First there was a moment of shocked silence as the assembly realized what had transpired. Then they collectively burst into loud and sustained laughter. Our journey into the new translation of the Roman Missal had begun.

That was last November. Since then, assemblies have been earnest in their responses, demonstrating a strong commitment to "getting it right." The short responses are firmly under control, and there is obvious earnestness as worshipers crack open the worship aid after the homily and prepare to revisit the Creed many had learned in their childhood. We have yet to venture into the retranslated Nicene Creed; anecdotal information suggests that it is being abandoned in many places. The new response to the Communion invitation is still a little wobbly. At the beginning of

Lent I changed the dismissal text to "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." I think the brevity of the cadence may have caught them off guard, and I was surprised that their normally powerful "Thanks be to God" was unconvincing.

As far as I can tell, my brother priests are struggling much more than members of the assembly. One sacristan for weekday Eucharist echoed that perception when empathetically opining "these are some tough texts." It is a point echoed by many members of the clergy. Sometimes there is no extended conversation but only a passing comment about the "word of the week." Prevenient, from the Prayer over the Offerings on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is one example that received a lot of clergy airtime.

Many priests are working very hard to stay faithful to the texts. Some for whom English is a second or even third language report they are employing only one Eucharistic Prayer (II) for the time being until they get the cadence and language down. It is a practice that I know at least one native English speaker also has adopted. As I travel around the country, I have heard from a few priests who are vocal about their unwillingness to say certain texts: the phrase for many in the institution narrative over the "chalice" is the prime example. More often, however, I hear of presiders who are employing a strategy of selective proclamation, editing out some of the more obscure language and occasionally dropping the ever-recurring "we beseech you." It suggests that the hybrid English liturgy might be on its way to being even more so.

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#### **Learning From Mistakes**

BY DON SHANE

irectives regarding the celebration of the Eucharist following the Second Vatican Council had a direct impact on me as a new priest. I worked hard to understand the history and the rationale for change. I was excited to share with the people the thinking that the church wanted them to experience a deeper intimacy with Jesus through the Eucharist. The changes often seemed drastic. The altar now had the priest facing the congregation, and often there was an altar in front of an altar. Changes in music often seemed inappropriate. There was a gradual change from Latin to English and finally the complete use of vernacular



Francis M. Hull, S.S.J., reads from the new Roman Missal during Mass on the First Sunday of Advent at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Va.

English. Many were happy to pray in the vernacular. Many were hurt and disappointed and felt that reverence for the Real Presence diminished. There was real division.

On the national scene it was a time of protest. It was the time of Vietnam, flower children, free love and demonstrable rejection of systems and values. The "God is dead" philosophy came on the scene. Some theologians supported the use of violence to bring about social justice. Not only were the values of our nation questioned but also the values of our church. Priests were leaving in large numbers. For many it was a time of chaos and of great soul searching.

Vatican II, Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI directed that we examine each sacrament and make sure that we celebrate the sacraments much as they were celebrated in the \( \geq \) early church. We were directed to implement changes and \( \frac{\pi}{2} \) we did. Many Catholics were upset. It seemed as if the § church was not the stable rock it claimed to be but instead was swept up in all the chaos. Many left the church. Looking back, we who were priests at the time should have done a

better job explaining the changes and making use of teaching opportunities.

In Advent 2011, when the time came to begin using the new Roman Missal, church leaders and pastors were able to draw on what they had learned about implementation from mistakes of the past. Leaders at both the national and diocesan level developed a marvelous preparation program for priests. There was unity throughout the country. In my archdiocese we set aside eight consecutive weeks to present to parishioners the history of the various parts of the Mass and the rationale for the changes that we know will be in place for a long time. All of it has been a great opportunity to study the Mass more closely and to reaffirm that it is our greatest prayer, our greatest spiritual treasure. This time, because pastoral leaders at all levels respected our people and gave a thorough preparation, we all came away with a great appreciation and reverence for the Mass.

As a celebrant I have been frustrated that I can no longer recite prayers of the Mass from memory. The language, though faithful to the Latin, sometimes seems clumsy and awkward. But knowing that we are closely aligned to the church throughout the world in the celebration of the Eucharist makes it all worth it. We priests, especially the older priests, just have to get used to it. It is already becoming more and more comfortable.

Our people have been most receptive. Not only do they participate enthusiastically, they also have demonstrated much tolerance for the celebrants, who sometimes stumble along. The congregation seems to appreciate the sense of solemnity the new translation brings. I think we have solemnity without losing the sense of the Lord's closeness to us. Our people are supportive.

Parishioners and priests have learned more about the beauty of the Eucharist. Pope John Paul II's wish that the vernacular of English-speaking countries more closely follow the Latin translation of the rest of the world has been accomplished. The implementation has been successful beyond my expectations. We really did learn from the late 1960s and 70s. We are blessed indeed.

**REV. DON SHANE** is the pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Omaha, Neb., a parish of over 2,800 families.

#### **Making Sense of Change**

BY DIANA MACALINTAL

he first time the new translation began to make sense to me was last January at a diocesan Mass. In the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., we celebrate Mass in 11 different languages every Sunday, and over half of our households speak a language other than English at home. To reflect the reality of who we are, every major diocesan

liturgy incorporates multiple languages, with English, Spanish and Vietnamese as the primary ones.

Most of the people at that Mass were English-speakers. Our bishop, however, according to custom, led the Sign of the Cross and the opening greeting in Spanish. When the assembly got to the response, "Y con tu espíritu," it clicked. That means "And with your spirit!" I could sense a light bulb turning on.

The assembly's newly revised English responses have been coming more naturally over the months, except for the response to the invitation to Communion: "Lord, I am not worthy...." Even at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week, packed with members of the clergy and parish leaders, we still could not find the common cadence to make this a unified response. Most assembly members no longer need the pew cards, but they still scramble for these aids at the Nicene Creed. Many parishes have opted to make more use of the Apostles' Creed.

The people in our diocese, in general, can recall the new words. But do the new words help them pray? That is still uncertain. At a gathering of parish liturgy coordinators, I asked the participants if their assemblies were now more engaged or less engaged in the Mass. The overwhelming response was that they have mostly lost touch during the priest's prayers. Perhaps this was true before the new translation, but those leaders perceive that their assemblies find the prayers unmemorable and unremarkable. When the parishioners do notice these prayers, it is for the wrong reasons. The most-cited example I have heard from lay leaders and clergy alike was the phrase prevenient grace from the prayer over the offerings for the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Most of our priests have been publicly silent about their opinion. The priests I have heard celebrating the Mass, including our bishop, have been very diligent in practicing the prayers. Those who have been most successful pray more slowly and deliberately. Yet some who have privately shared their opinions about the texts with me have hoped that we might have a revision of the revision within the next several years. One heartbreaking comment I heard from a priest shortly after the feast of the Immaculate Conception and again after Ash Wednesday, when the imagery of the prayers seemed especially unfamiliar, was that he was "embarrassed in trying to pray it."

The new translation has brought us closer to one another, but in some ways it has drawn us further away from communal prayer. The good we have seen is an increased urgency to attend to the other "languages" of the Mass: music, hospitality and preaching. In the meantime, we will continue together to do our best with what we have been given.

**DIANA MACALINTAL** has been the director of worship for the Diocese of San Jose for 10 years.

#### Some Confused, Many Composed

BY JAN MICHAEL JONCAS

When considering the musical reception of the new translation of the Roman Missal, one must first realize that it takes time for any new musical repertoire to become sung prayer in a local worshiping community. For this reason, and because the worshiping communities I am most familiar



Aaron Kaleniecki and his wife, Ruth, go over music he composed and arranged for Mass at St. Aloysius Church in Detroit, Mich.

with are parishes, monasteries, university centers and convents of women religious in the upper Midwest, I need to make clear at the outset that my remarks are limited and tentative.

Since the new Missal was implemented in the United States, I have been especially interested to see how many of the chants included in it are being used in parishes. This repertoire is divided into categories, including chants for the priest's prayers, dialogues between individuals and the assembly and litanies, hymns and acclamations sung by the assembly. Despite a significant educational effort aimed at the clergy and music ministers prior to the implementation, as well as a plethora of printed and recorded aids for the clergy, I do not experience a strong upsurge in the number of priests who are chanting the collect, the prayer over the offerings, the post-Communion prayer, the prayer over the people or the eucharistic prayer, using either the simple or the solemn tones. I have heard more priests chanting the dialogues at the introductory rites, before the Gospel, before the eucharistic prayer (continuing with the preface), and at the concluding rites than previously, with congregations gradually becoming familiar with their responses. Very few of the communities with which I have celebrated have used the Missal chants for the Lord, Have Mercy (in either Greek or English, whether troped or not), the Glory to God, the Holy, Holy, Holy (in Latin or English) or the Lamb of God (in Latin or English). These elements are almost always sung to settings other than those offered in the Missal, although the Missal chants are sometimes done a capella at daily Masses. I have never heard the Creed chanted.

About half the communities I have visited since the implementation of the new Roman Missal use what I call a retrofitted musical setting of the Order of Mass, by which I mean a setting composed for the earlier text that has been modified to fit the new translation. Good examples would be the new versions of Marty Haugen's "Mass of Creation" or Richard Proulx's "Community Mass." While there have been some signs of confusion—portions of the assembly singing by heart what they remember of the earlier setting, while others sing the new setting according to the printed score—this transition has actually been smoother than many predicted.

The other half of the communities I have visited since the implementation of the new Missal are using new musical settings of the Order of Mass, with no particular setting seeming to dominate. While some hoped that the implementation would establish a common English-language repertoire for the

Order of Mass in the United States, I see no evidence of that happening. The vast majority of the communities I have visited employ settings from one of the three most popular liturgical music publishers (GIA Publications, OCP, World Library Publications) or from a composer in their own community. Very few employ settings from smaller publishers or Internet sources.

In my judgment, the major disruption in musical practices that some predicted would occur at the implementation of the new Roman Missal last year has not occurred. Communities with strong musical traditions took the changes in texts in stride and are already familiar with at least one new setting; they may be taking on the challenge of incorporating the entrance and Communion antiphons in creative ways. Average communities struggle to find musical settings of the Glory to God that both respect the new text and invite congregational participation. Communities with little or no musical tradition might be best advised to work on a foundational repertoire of dialogues and acclamations, possibly from the Missal chants.

**REV. JAN MICHAEL JONCAS,** a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis who is a composer and liturgist, is associate professor of Catholic studies at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minn.

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# What's Next?

# A pastor reflects on the new Roman Missal BY MICHAEL G. RYAN

n December 2009, in an article on the new Roman Missal (Am., 12/14/09), I asked the question: "What if we just said 'wait'?" I proposed that the new translation be "road tested" for a year before being widely implemented. More than 23,000 people from around the English-speaking world liked that idea and signed on to a Web site to say so. Now, after several months of using the newly translated Roman Missal, I find myself asking a new question: "What's next?"

On the first Sunday of Advent, after carefully preparing my parishioners, I swallowed hard, read the prayers, chanted the chants and did what I was required to do. I told myself it would get easier over time. Now I am not so sure. The overloaded sentences and convoluted syntax of the collects and other prayers may be less jarring than at first, but by calling attention to themselves they continue to get in the way of prayer, at least for me. The same is true for frequently recurring words like "humbly," "graciously," "beseech" and

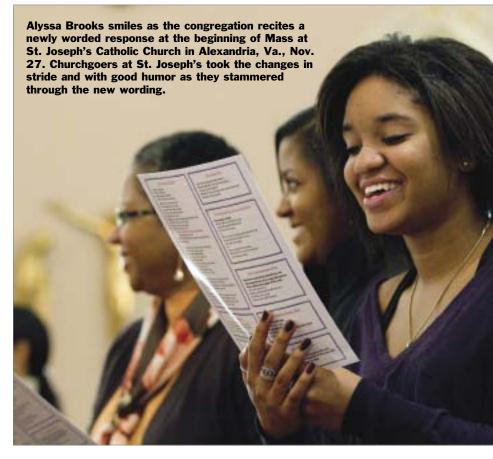
"grant, we pray." And I have an almost visceral reaction when it comes to "precious chalice," "oblation of our service," "summoned before you," "conciliation," "consubstantial with the Father" and "shed for you and for many."

Perhaps it is a bit different for the people in the pews. My own parishioners have joined in the new responses in fairly good spirit (though with some initial eyebrow-raising), and if our varied renditions of "Lord, I am not worthy" occasionally sound like we are speaking in tongues, their "and with your spirit" comes across loud and clear (even if it sometimes sounds like "There, we did it!").

#### **An Early Report Card**

So how does the report card look? Is the worst over? Apart

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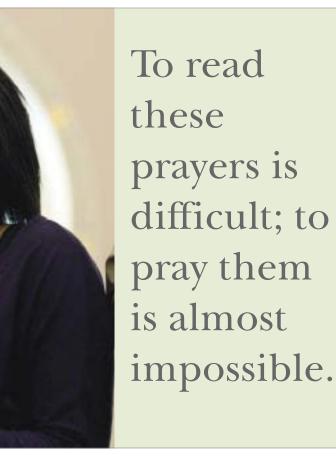
from critics like me, has the new Missal been well received? Can it be called a success? I do not think so. The Missal continues to be an obstacle to prayer and to raise many more questions than it answers.

First, there is the question of justice. In spite of the outspoken concerns of liturgists, theologians, pastors and lay faithful (and some bishops, too), the new Missal, a book as heavy, awkward and clumsy as the new texts themselves, was rolled out right on schedule—in far more timely fashion than the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner, although to considerably less acclaim. This was no small achievement given that, after the Missal finally received the approval of most, not all, of the bishops' conferences of the English-speaking world, its test flight to Rome resulted in hundreds of last-minute, behind-the-scenes changes made by some nameless Vatican editors.

Second, there is the question of language. Some of the Latin originals of our prayers are wonderful composi-

PHOTO: CNS/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

tions—simple yet profound and expressed with classical economy of language. Not so these translations, where "Roman brevity" is nowhere to be seen. On almost every page, there are passages so turgid as to be distasteful and, in many cases, downright baffling. Here are some cases in point:



- · Look kindly, we pray, upon the handiwork of your mercy....
- This oblation, by which divine worship in its fullness has been inaugurated....
- As you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed (Awkward language aside, the clear implication that Mary needed to be "cleansed" should get the attention of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Doctrine)....
- Just as the Savior of the world, born this day, is the author of divine generation for us, so he may be the giver even of immortality....

Lent and Easter provided even more egregious howlers that left priests and people scratching their heads and, if not beating their breasts, then perhaps beating their pew cards and missalettes against the pews.

- Accept, we pray, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise, and grant that, cleansed by its working, we may offer minds well pleasing to you....
- May the venerable exercises of holy devotion shape the hearts of your faithful....
- [S]urpass, for the honor of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of the faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.
- But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor....
- Grant, we pray...that we who have been renewed by paschal remedies, transcending the likeness of our earthly parentage, may be transformed....
- Overcome by paschal joy (Happily, at this point in the Easter Vigil, most people were so overcome by paschal joy that they failed to be overcome by this rather amusing overstatement)

To read these prayers is difficult; to call them prayerful is to redefine the word; to pray them is almost impossible.

#### **How Is It Being Received?**

Third, there is the question of reception. A large number of the Catholic faithful seem to have shrugged helplessly and gone along with the new program, but can their passive acceptance be read as approval? I think not. An informal, admittedly unscientific survey offered by www.whatifwe-justsaidwait.org indicates that 70 percent of those who have responded have a negative or strongly negative reaction to the Missal (in spite of feeling "very well prepared" by their parishes for the transition).

Many mainstream Catholics, the people who fill our pews and our collection baskets Sunday after Sunday, are quietly asking questions: Why? Whose idea was this? Who said it would improve our prayer life and deepen our relationship to God? Who thought this was a good idea, when the church has so many more pressing issues to deal with? Who authorized the massive expenditure of money that was required? And who came up with these awkward, clumsy, tongue-twisting and, in some cases, virtually unintelligible translations?

The acquiescence of priests cannot necessarily be read as approval, either. In many cases, our willingness to go along with the program can be chalked up to: our powerlessness to do anything else, our fear of reprisals or our unwillingness to sacrifice the unity of the communities we serve.

Speaking for myself, it was difficult to make the decision to implement the Missal, but I took hope in the thought that our people, once they heard it, would speak out. Some have. But most people have been quiet. A friend recently

asked me how realistic it was to expect the people to speak up about the Missal. "I don't know," she wrote, "if you're right to hope that your people will resist even as you yourself are yielding and going along with a diminished Mass. They trust you and they will follow your lead." Her question has kept me awake some nights.

#### **More Questions**

So I come to the question I hope we will respectfully but insistently ask: What's next? That triggers a series of other questions.

Can our bishops begin at once to talk about necessary modifications: correcting the most egregious flaws in the new Missal—errors in translation, grammatical problems and theological anomalies? This would provide some temporary relief.

Can our bishops begin to engage scholars, liturgists and poets in a conversation about the art of translation and the principles that should govern it? Can they talk about how to treasure our long tradition while also treasuring the great breakthrough of the Second Vatican Council, which called not just for a translated liturgy but for a genuinely vernacular liturgy? Can they then bring the fruits of this dialogue to Rome?

But it is not enough for the bishops alone to talk. A more

general conversation is called for. Instead of carping in private, can we all talk openly and honestly about the texts we have been given? Can we talk about what works well and what clearly does not? Can we talk about tortured texts being forced into lines of music with all the comfort of an ill-fitting pair of shoes? Can we talk about what contributes to prayer and what gets in the way?

Can we talk about a new edition of the Missal, not someday, but soon? (A costly question, for sure, but something tells me that many a priest would gladly help foot the bill.) Can we even talk about the beautiful 1998 translation of the

> Missal—the product of 17 years of labor by seasoned professionals?

If we do not talk, we may face two very unfortunate outcomes. The first is that the people will simply tune out the texts when they realize how much effort is

required to make sense of them. (This is clearly already happening.) The second is that we will see a kind of liturgical free-for-all in which celebrants alter the texts to fit their comfort level—whether theological, literary or both. (This, too, is already happening.)

So can we keep talking, not letting weariness with the whole business or indifference or fear of reprisals prevent us from talking and listening to each other?

We need to talk about what's next.

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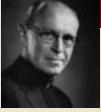
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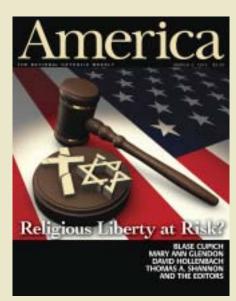
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Dr. Mary A. Lenkay • 1982 Dr. Arthur J. Lennon, Jr. • 1977	Ohio New York
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Ms. Mary K. Rutherfurd • 1995	New York
Ms. Evelyn M. Saal • 2007	New York
Col. James E. Sanner. • 2002	Texas
Mr. Stephen A. Scherr • 1977	Nebraska
Rev. Edward L. Scheuerman • 1990	Michigan
Mr. Paul G. Schloemer + 2000	
Mr. John B. Schlosser + 1989	
Mrs. Priscilla Schultz • 2001	California
Mr. and Mrs. Ford Schumann • 1993	

Ms. Demetra Schwieger + 2007	Washington
Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Semancik + 1985	
Mr. Terrence P. Shaughnessy • 1995	
Mr. Thomas P. Sheridan + 2003	
Mr. Robert E. Shields + 2008	
Ms. Therese Sickles + 2008	Washingtor
Rev. Bernard S. Sippel + 1987	Wisconsir
Most Rev. Richard J. Sklba, S.S.L. • 1983	
Mr. James L. Smith + 1997	
Msgr. Alfred E. Smith • 1989	Maryland
Mary Anne Sonnenschein + 2004	
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Stokes + 1993	Maryland
Mrs. Gail L. Sturdevant + 1995	Missour
Dr. Robert H. Sueper + 1988	Nebraska
Most Rev. Joseph M. Sullivan • 1994	New York
Ms. Patricia M. Surdyk + 2001	
Rev. James R. Swiat • 1990	
Mr. Richard J. Teahan • 1988	
Ms. Katharine M. Teipen • 2004	
Rev. Carl Tenhundfeld + 1997	Texas
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Thompson + 1992 .	. Pennsylvania
Veronica M. Thorsell + 2006	New Jersey
Mr. Carmel J. Tintle + 2003	New Jersey
Ms. Ann C. Tobey + 1990	New York
Mr. Albert Y. Torres • 2008	California
Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Torres + 1994	Florida
Ms. Jo Goeke Vallo + 1980	Illinois
Rev. Henry C. Vavasseur + 32005	Louisiana
Mr. Eugene E. Vilfordi + 1995	Texas
Rev. Michael E. Volkmer + 2008	Iowa
Mrs. Alice P. Vorbach • 1999	Virginia
Mr. Eugene P. Vukelic + 2003	New York
Mr. Charles F. Wall + 2001	Georgia
Dr. Margaret M. Waters + 2006	New York
Col. Bernard A. Waxstein, Jr. • 1996	California
Mr. Kent R. Weber + 2003	New Jersey
Ms. Marianne K. Weed + 2009	
Mr. George J. Welch + 2010	New York
Mr. John C. Weldon + 1989	Washingtor
Rev. Leo A. Wiley • 2007	New York
Mrs. Olive E. Wilkins + 2001	
Mr. John S. Wintermyer + 2008	
Mr. Richard M. Witt + 2002	
Mr. and Mrs. John Wolfe + 1991	California
Mr. Paul H. Young + 1977	New York
Mr. James R. Zazzali + 1991	New Jersey
Deacon and Mrs. Joel M. Ziff • 1993	
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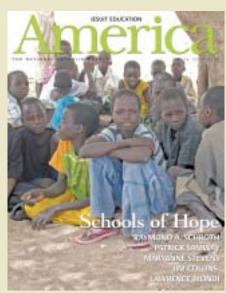
#### The Associates

\$150 to \$299
Mr. Hans D. Ackermann • 2000 Colorado
Miss Lillian Adami + 1987 Pennsylvania
Rev. Albert R. Adamich + 1998 Illinois
Mr. Emmett J. Agoglia + 2000 New York
Edward N. Ahearn, M.D. • 2010 California
Mr. Anthony H. Ahrens • 2002 District of Columbia
Anthony C. and Julia S. Albrecht • 1993 Maryland
Rev. Bruce R. Allison + 2004 Pennsylvania
Howard J. Alyward, Jr., M. D. • 2007 Pennsylvania
Dr. Stephen L. Anderson • 2001 Indiana
Ms. Beverly M. Anderson + 2006 Oregon
Mr. Peter J. Andes + 1995 New York
Ms. Jane Antrobus + 2008 Tennessee
Joan Arrigan + 2008Rhode Island

Mrs. Mary K. Artz + 1994 Montana
Rev. George A. Aschenbrenner, S.J. + 2004 D.C.
Mr. Kenneth F. Bailie + 2003 New York
Mrs. Angela A. Baker • 2001 Texas
Mr. William A. Baker, Jr. • 1996 South Carolina
Rev. John F. Baldwin • 2007 California
Rev. R. James Balint • 1994 Texas
Mr. Stewart L. Barbera + 2010 Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Barnidge + 2005 Missouri
Ms. Marie J. Barry • 2006 District of Columbia
Msgr. Patrick J. Barry + 2004 New York
Mr. Adolph J. Barsanti • 2003 Virginia
Dr. Paul E. Bates • 1987New York
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Battafarano • 2004 Nebraska
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Bauer • 1982 Oklahoma

Ms. Rosemary E. Binon • 2005 Ohio
Ms. Norah M. Bischoff • 1998 New York
Mr. Edward J. Blanch • 1994 Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Blasucci + 2010 New York
Fr. Clair Boes + 2009
Mr. John G. Boor + 2005
Mr. George F. Bourgeois + 2008
Mr. Robert J. Boyles • 2003
Mr. Thomas A. Brand + 2009
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Braun + 2010 Indiana
Mr. Joseph P. Braun + 2009 Illinois
Rev. Philip M. Breen • 1996 Tennessee
Mr. Ralph J. Bremigan • 2010 Indiana
Ms. Anne Brenaman • 2006 Washington
Mr. Richard J. Brennan + 2007 Illinois
Rev. Raymond A. Brenner + 2003 Indiana
Dr. Brian E. Breslin • 2006 Maine
Mr. and Mrs. Bresnan • 2001New York
Rev. John E. Brooks, S.J. + 2005 Massachusetts
Ms. Marilyn M. Brown • 2003
Ms. Mary A. Bruemmer + 1991 Missouri
Mr. William James Burke • 1997 Connecticut
Mr. Edward J. Burke, III + 2002 Texas
Rev. Michael T. Buttner + 1998
Mrs. Eileen K. Byrne + 1983 Illinois Rev. Msgr. Harry J. Byrne + 1987 New York
Ms. Anna M. Byrnes + 1988
Mrs. Ellen L. Cady • 1998 Michigan
Ms. Mary L. Cain • 2007
Mr. Pat W. Camerino • 1983 Texas
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Campbell • 2008 Pennsylvania
Greg and Mary Carnevale • 1994 Michigan
Ms. Stella Carter + 2008North Carolina
Mr. Edward J. Carville • 1982 California
Dr. Michael P. Casey • 2001 Pennsylvania
Mr. John J. Casey • 1987 Missouri
Mrs. Margaret T. Casey + 2009
Ms. Patricia Casey • 1996
Ms. Doris E. Cimino • 2004 Florida
Col. Dennis E. Clancey, U.S.M.C. + 1988 Virginia
Mr. James F. Cleary + 1994 New York
Mr. Nicholas R. Clifford • 2003Vermont
Ms. Jane E. Clifford + 2009 New York
Ms. Jane E. Clifford • 2009
Dr. Jesus L. Climaco + 1985 Wyoming
Dr. Jesus L. Climaco • 1985
Dr. Jesus L. Climaco * 1985
Dr. Jesus L. Climaco * 1985
Dr. Jesus L. Climaco * 1985

Ms. Margaret E. Crahan + 2008	New York
A. Paul Cravedi • 2005	Massachusetts
Mr. John D. Crawford • 1994	Illinois
Ms. Margaret T. Cronin • 1995	Maryland
Ms. Sheila C. Crowell + 2006	New Jersey
Mr. James P. Crowley + 2006	Illinois
Rev. Dennis Crowley + 2009	New Jersey
Rev. Francis J. Culkin • 1988	New York
Anne and Richard Cummings + 2003 .	New Jersey
Ricky J. Curotto • 1999	California
Mr. Richard F. Czaja + 2006	New York
Mr. Ed Dailey + 2002	Massachusetts

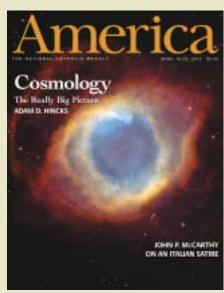


Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas P. Damico + 2008 Maryland
Ms. Judith M. Davis + 1996 Indiana
Rev. Stephen Deaver + 2005 Nebraska
Mrs. Katherine E. DeBacker + 2008 Colorado
Mr. Alfred C. DeCrane, Jr. + 2005 Florida
Mr. Richard P. Delaney + 1988 Texas
Mr. Andre L. Delbecq + 1999 California
Ms. Catherine S. Delea • 11985 Texas
Mr. Edward J. Dempsey • 2004 Connecticut
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. DeNatale • 1991 Massachusetts
Msgr. Timothy H. Desrochers • 2008 Michigan
Ms. Colleen Detjen + 1988 Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Detommaso + 2000 Arizona
Mr. William S. Dinger + 1993 New York
Mr. John M. Dister + 2009Virginia
Thomas R. Doheny + 2010 North Carolina
Dr. and Mrs. Floyd J. Donahue • 1994 New Jersey
Ms. Susan Donahue + 2006 Georgia
Mr. Steven J. Donaldson + 1997 Washington
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Donohue • 2004 Florida
Mr. Thomas J. Donovan + 2002 Arizona
Ms. Margaret G. Dowd + 2006 New York
Mr. Ronald Dower + 1989 Connecticut
Mrs. William Downey • 1985 Illinois
Mr. James L. Doyle + 2009 South Carolina
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Drage • 2009 Ohio
Rev. Michael A. Driscoll • 2005 Pennsylvania
Mr. Venceslau D'Silva + 2004 New York
Mr. Walter V. Duane • 1988 South Carolina
Mr. Joseph Dubanowich + 2006 North Carolina
Mr. Denny T. Duffell • 2006 Washington
Mr. Maurice J. Dufilho, III + 2010 Texas

Mrs. Aloha R. Dufour • 2008 Pennsylvania
Rev. Donald F. Dunn + 1996
Rev. James M. Dunne + 2008 New York
Mr. David J. Dunne, Jr. + 1997 Massachusetts
Dr. Pierre Durand + 2006
Ms. Barbara A. Durbin • 1987 Arizona
Mrs. Rosemary C. Durkin • 2007
Mrs. Patricia A. Dwight • 2004
Mr. Leo A. Egan • 2008 New York
Mr. Harry A. Eick + 2007 Michigan
Dr. John A. Engers, Jr. + 2004 Maryland
Mrs. Sheila E. Erlach • 2000 Nevada
Dr. James W. Erlenborn + 1988 Illinois
Mrs. Jeanette Esposito + 2010 Florida
Mrs. Eileen F. Essaye • 2000 District of Columbia
Mr. Gregory W. Evans • 2010 California
Mrs. Maragaret M. Evans • 2010 Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Falcone • 1983 New York
Ms. M. Particia Fallon • 1983 Massachusetts
Mrs. Paula H. Fangman • 2005 Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Ferguson + 2007 Virginia
Mr. Alfredo J. Fernandes, Jr. + 1993 Michigan
Ms. Gilda Ferrara + 2009 New York
Mr. Robert J. Fien + 2010 New York
Ms. Barbara Fink • 2006
Ms. Catherine S. Finn • 2002 Texas
Mr. Charles J. Fitti • 1990 Pennsylvania
Rev. Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J. + 1999 . District of Columbia
Mr. John L. Flannery • 1993 Connecticut
Mr. Joseph H. Foley, Jr. + 1996 Georgia
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Forgue + 2010 Oklahoma
Mr. Joseph M. Formica • 1991 New Jersey
Ms. Katie D. Foster • 2003
Rev. Leonard W. Fraher + 2005
Rev. Leonard vv. Francr * 2005 vv isconsin
Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996 California
Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996
Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996       California         Mr. Bertram F. Frederick • 2007       Florida         Rev. Paul J. Freemesser • 2004       New York         Mr. Thomas M. Gaier • 2009       Ohio         Fr. F. Anthony Gallagher • 2005       Ohio         Mr. Michael J. Gallagher • 2011       California         Dr. and Mrs. Efrain Garcia • 1997       Texas         Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gariboldi • 1996       New York         Ms. Kathleen T. Garry • 2003       New York         Timothy A. Garry • 2002       Ohio         Ms. Jean Gartlan • 1996       Maryland         Mrs. Dorothy E. Garvin • 2010       New York         Mr. Matthew Geiger • 2004       Massachusetts         Mr. and Mrs. John A. Geishecker • 2004       Massachusetts         Mr. John J. Gelinas • 1996       Massachusetts         Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety • 1993       New Jersey         Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Gersitz • 2003       New York         Ms. Mary V. Gibbons • 1985       Nichigan         Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Gifford • 1994       Maryland         Rev. Michael E. Giglio • 1993       Florida         Rev. John J. Gildea • 2004       New York         Ms. Dorothy Gillan • 2009       California         Mr. R. O. Gillick • 2002       California
Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996
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Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996         California           Mr. Bertram F. Frederick • 2007         Florida           Rev. Paul J. Freemesser • 2004         New York           Mr. Thomas M. Gaier • 2009         Ohio           Fr. F. Anthony Gallagher • 2005         Ohio           Mr. Michael J. Gallagher • 2011         California           Dr. and Mrs. Efrain Garcia • 1997         Texas           Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gariboldi • 1996         New York           Ms. Kathleen T. Garry • 2003         New York           Timothy A. Garry • 2002         Ohio           Ms. Jean Gartlan • 1996         Maryland           Mrs. Dorothy E. Garvin • 2010         New York           Mr. Matthew Geiger • 2004         Massachusetts           Mr. and Mrs. John A. Geishecker • 2004         Massachusetts           Mr. John J. Gelinas • 1996         New York           Ms. Mary V. Gibbons • 1985         New York           Ms. Mary V. Gibbons • 1985         Nichigan           Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Gifford • 1994         Maryland
Mr. Charles A. Frazee + 1996
Mr. Charles A. Frazee • 1996

Mrs. Margaret F. Grace • 1994 New York
Mr. Arthur E. Graham + 1983 Kentucky
Rev. Charles P. Granstrand + 1991 New Jersey
Jake and Ruth Graves + 2000Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Groshek • 1998 Colorado
Rev. Richard J. Groshek + 1988 Michigan
Mr. J. Ferrel Guillory • 1998 North Carolina
Dr. M. K. Gumerlock + 1997 Oklahoma
Rev. James G. Gutting • 1989 Pennsylvania
Mrs. Genevieve M. Hagan + 1999 Maryland
John and Rebecca Halleron + 2001 New York
Mr. Joseph V. Hamilton, Jr. + 1995 New York
Ms. Doris Hand + 2010
Most Rev. Richard C. Hanifen • 2004 Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Francis L. Hanigan + 1987 Texas
Rev. Joseph F. Hanley • 1989 South Carolina
Elizabeth A. Harkin + 2002 New York
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Harris • 1990 Wisconsin
Mr. James J. Hastings • 2003 Maryland
Mr. Thomas A. Hayden • 2010 Pennsylvania
Mrs. Ellen W. Healey • 1972 Indiana
Mr. Dennis M. Healy • 2006 Texas
Rev. Philip A. Hearn • 2009 New York
Rev. Lawrence A. Hecker • 2001 Louisiana
Mr. James G. Heller • 2008 Michigan
Msgr. Owen J. Hendry • 2005 New Jersey
Rev. Douglas J. Hennessy • 1995 Illinois
Rev. John C. Hergenrother • 1992 Wisconsin
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Heyman • 1987 New Jersey
Rev. Charles J. Hiebl • 1991
Mr. James F. Higgins • 1998 Pennsylvania
Rev. Richard J. Hoar, S.J. • 2003
Mr. Kenneth L. Holehouse • 1998 Wisconsin
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hollohan • 1996 Florida
Mr. Richard V. Holmes + 1995 Pennsylvania
Mr. Richard V. Holmes • 1995 Pennsylvania Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Holohan • 1988 New York
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Mr. John D. Kelleher + 2005	Massachusetts
Mr. Thomas E. Kelleher + 1988	Massachusetts
Rev. James G. Kelly + 2008	New York
Ms. Mary Ann Kelly-Wright • 2002	Minnesota
Msgr. Leo A. Kelty + 1988	New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Kendrick • 2002 .	Florida
Mr. Peter C. Kenny • 2010	Massachusetts
Francis J. Kicsar + 2002	Wisconsin
Barbara S. Kiernan, Ph.D. + 2001	Georgia
Mr. David P. Killen • 2007	Washington
Ms. Mary E. Klink • 1989	Wisconsin
Mr. Leonard A. Knobbe + 2006	Missouri
Mr. Lawrence Konsin + 2001	Pennsylvania
Mr. John N. Kotre + 2001	
Mr. Joseph S. Kraemer + 2003	
Dr. and Mrs. John F. Krager, Jr. + 2009	_
Rev. William T. Kremmell + 2009	Massachusetts
Mrs. Marie B. Kunder + 1987	
Ms. Barbara L. Kuttner + 2006	Arizona
Rev. Joseph A. La Plante + 1995	
Mr. James J. LaBrie • 2003	
Mr. Joseph A. Lagan • 2010	
Mr. and Mrs. F. Vern Lahart • 1993	
Mr. Christopher Lane • 2000	
Mr. Timothy E. Lane • 2005	New Jersey
Dr. Charles B. Larkin, M.D. • 1998	
Joseph J. Lauber, M. D. • 1983	
Ms. Mary Jo Lavin • 2005	
Mr. John F. Lawlor + 1990	υ
Col. James E. Lawrence • 1999	
Mrs. Ellen S. Leemputte • 1999	
Mrs. Ann G. Lefever • 1997	
Ms. Louise A. Lehman + 2006	
Mr. John J. Lehr • 2009	
Rev. Donald E. Leighton + 2003	
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Ronald and Linda Lesko + 2009 Mair	ne
Mrs. Susan B. Levangia + 2009 New Yor	rk
Mary and Thomas Lewis • 1996New Jerse	ey
Ms. Nancy E. Lindsay • 2008 District of Columb	ia
Rev. Frank E. Lioi + 2008New Yor	rk
Ms. Carol A. Litzler + 1993 Ohi	io
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd • 1988 Mair	ıe
Ms. Martha Lohmeyer • 1976 Marylan	nd
Mr. Anthony Lombardi, Jr. • 2004 Colorad	lo

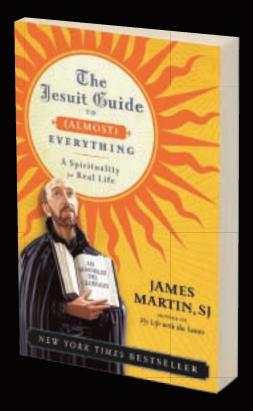
Dr. Nuria Lopez-Pajares • 2009 Pennsylvania
Betty L. Lovett + 2009 Kansas
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Lower, Jr. + 1989 California
Joyce Lubofsky + 1987 New York
Dennis and Pam Lucey • 1998Virginia
Mr. Frank Luciano + 2011
Mr. Albert F. Luckas • 1995 Wisconsin
Rev. John P. Ludwig + 2005 Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lyons + 1987 New Jersey
Rev. James H. MacDonald + 2007 California
Rev. Paul V. MacDonald • 2006 Massachusetts
Mr. John J. MacDougall + 2004 New York
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Ms. Beatrice A. Mackenzie + 2010 Connecticut
Mr. John B. Madden, Jr. + 1988 New York
Mr. and Mrs. James V. Maher, Jr. + 1993 Pennsylvania
Mr. John L. Mahoney + 2003 Massachusetts
Ms. Carol Malone • 2005 Missouri
Mr. Robert D. Mannix • 2001 Oklahoma
Mr. Rocco J. Marano • 1989 New Jersey
Mr. John Maravilla • 2000 Colorado
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mariani + 1993 Massachusetts
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Marmion + 2005 California
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Marous, Jr. + 1987 Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Marran + 1993 Illinois
Kathy Martin + 1995 Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martin • 1988 Washington
Mary Martinen, M.D. + 2003 Michigan
Rev. James D. Mathews + 2004 New York
Mr. John R. Maule + 2004
Mr. Richard E. McAdams • 1987 Pennsylvania
Mr. Robert F. McAndrew • 1996 Connecticut
Mr. Mark J. McCabe + 1997 Pennsylvania
Ms. Clare J. McCabe + 2000 Maryland
Rev. Msgr. William J. McCaffrey • 2002 Rhode Island
Mr. E. Michael McCann • 2010 Wisconsin
Mr. Joseph F. X. McCarthy • 2008 Connecticut
Mrs. Kathleen L. McCarthy + 1998 California
Mrs. Virginia M. McCarthy • 1988 New Jersey
Mr. John R. McConnell, Jr. • 2008 Pennsylvania
Rev. Edward T. McCorry • 2004 New York
•
Miss Catherine R. McCullough + 2003 Florida
Rev. Henry McDaid + 2008 Alabama
Mr. Alonzo L. McDonald + 2000 Michigan
Gloria M. McDonnell, Ph.D. + 2005 New York
Rev. Vincent P. McDonough, S.J. + 2003 New York
Mr. Jerome E. McElroy • 1988 New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. T. F. McEvily, Jr. + 2004 New York
Rev. Richard W. McGowan, S.J. • 1999 New Mexico
Mrs. Barbara J. McGrattan + 2002 North Carolina
Fr. Patrick McGurk • 2000 Montana
Deacon and Mrs. Ronald L. McIntyre • 1990 Michigan
Mr. Kerry A. McKeon • 2007 Maryland
Ms. Mary J. McLaughlin • 2005 Pennsylvania
Ms. Eileen T. McMahon + 2005 New York
Msgr. John J. McMahon + 2009 Arizona
Andrews McMeel Universal Foundation + 2002 . Missouri
Rev. John P. McNamara • 2010 Illinois
W. A. McNamara + 2008Rhode Island
W. A. McNamara • 2008
Ms. Cecilia L. McPeak • 1985 Pennsylvania Elizabeth B. Meers • 2009 District of Columbia
Ms. Cecilia L. McPeak • 1985 Pennsylvania Elizabeth B. Meers • 2009 District of Columbia Ms. Sarah J. Melici • 1998 New Jersey
Ms. Cecilia L. McPeak • 1985

Mr. Donald N. Mickells + 2003 Massachusetts
Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Milani • 1987 California
Mrs. Elizabeth E. Miller • 2000 Massachusetts
Deacon William J. Mitchell + 2007 California
Mr. John F. Mitchell • 2010 Missouri
Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Mitchell • 1993 California
Mobil Retiree Matching Gifts Program + 2009 New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Monroe, Jr. + 1997 Wisconsin
Mr. Robert B. Moran • 1987 California
Ms. Maura Morey • 2005 California
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Moritz + 1988 Wisconsin
Paul and Maureen Moses + 1993 New York
Mr. Kevin Mulcahy + 1995New Jersey
Mr. Joseph P. Muriana + 2005 New York
Mr. Eamon Murphy • 2009 California
Mr. Cornelius F. Murphy, Jr. + 2004 Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Murray + 1969 Connecticut
Mr. Daniel R. Murray + 2005 Illinois
Mrs. Mary M. Murray • 1995 Maryland
Rev. Sean Murray • 1997 California
Col. John F. Murray • 1983 Tennessee
Dorice M. Narins, Ph.D. • 2005 North Carolina
Mr. James J. Navagh • 1983 New Jersey
Rev. Peter Neeley • 2011 Arizona
Mr. James J. Neerincx + 2006 North Carolina
Ms. Charlotte L. Nesseth • 2007 Wisconsin
Rev. Thomas F. Nestor • 1992 Massachusetts
Ms. Rose Nitz + 2010 North Dakota
Mr. Joseph P. Nolan + 1997 North Carolina
Rev. David J. Norris + 2008 California
Charles and Sonja Earthman Novo + 2003 Texas
Mrs. Katherine M. Nowak • 2003 California
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Nugent + 1991 Virginia
Rev. Niles J. Gillen, O.Carm • 1998 Florida
Ms. Jeanette A. Obal • 2009 Nebraska
Ellin C. O'Brien + 2011 New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. O'Brien + 1988 Nebraska
Rev. Leo P. O'Brien + 2008New York
Mr. Charles J. O'Connell • 1994 New York
Dr. Luke E. O'Connor + 2003 Connecticut
Mr. J. Kenneth O'Connor • 1988 New York
Mr. Sean O'Connor + 1988 Connecticut
Rev. Robert B. O'Connor + 1989 New York
Mr. Norman Odlum • 1996 New York
Mr. Norman Odlum • 1996 New York
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. O'Donnell • 1988 Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. O'Donnell • 1988 Pennsylvania Mr. Harold J. O'Donnell • 2007 Arizona
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. O'Donnell • 1988 Pennsylvania Mr. Harold J. O'Donnell • 2007 Arizona Mr. Thomas L.P. O'Donnell • 1996 Massachusetts
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. O'Donnell • 1988 Pennsylvania Mr. Harold J. O'Donnell • 2007
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Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. O'Donnell • 1988 Pennsylvania Mr. Harold J. O'Donnell • 2007

	Virginia
Mr. and Mrs. Joaquin A. Perez • 2005	
Mr. Drew M. Petersen, Jr. + 2009	
Ms. Mary Ann Pettigrew + 2004	
Mr. Joseph Pettit + 1992	
Mr. Joseph A. Placek • 1999	
Emmy and William Plato • 2008	
James and Mary Plummer • 1991	
Mr. John A. Pocs + 1988	
Ms. Suzanne Polen + 2001	
Mr. Joseph D. Policano + 1982	
Mrs. Janet Pomeranz • 2008	New York
Mrs. Florence E. Quinn • 2004	Virginia
Mr. Joseph J. Rafacz + 2010	Wisconsir
Jill Raitt + 2002	
Dr. Jorge Rakela + 2002	Arizona
Rev. Martin Rauscher + 1987	
Mr. Alex J. Ravnik + 1988	
Rev. Charles T. Reese + 1993	
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Regan • 1969	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Reilly • 1995	Texas
Mr. John I. & Jeanne M. Reilly • 2001	California
Paul and Rosemary Reiss + 1989	New York
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Reuland • 2001	Illinoi:
Mr. and Mrs. Steven P. Reynolds • 1996 N	lassachusett:
Rev. Joseph F. Reynolds + 2001	
Rev. Thomas Rhomberg • 2004	Iowa
Mr. Robert E. Richter • 2006	Florida
Fr. Michael Ricker + 2001	Ohio
Mr. Joseph M. Rigolio + 2004	New Jersey
Mr. Allan J. Riley + 2005	Connecticu
Mr. and Mrs. Riley • 2010	
Mr. John L. Rivard • 2008	Michigar
Dr. Edward Rizy • 2010	Rhode Island
Dr. Edward Rizy • 2010 Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998	
	Rhode Island
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998	Rhode Island New York
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998 Mr. John F. Roche • 2002	Rhode Island New York Illinois
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998 Mr. John F. Roche • 2002 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Roll • 2001	Rhode Island New YorkIllinoid of Columbia
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998 Mr. John F. Roche • 2002 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Roll • 2001 Mr. Thomas Romig • 1983 District	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Ricc
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998 Mr. John F. Roche • 2002 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Roll • 2001 Mr. Thomas Romig • 1983 District Mr. Ramon A. Rosado-Vila, Esq. • 1993	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia . Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Ricc Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois
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Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California Iowa California
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California California California Illinois Illinois Illinois
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II • 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California California Illinois Illinois Illinois Illinois Maryland
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California California Illinois Illinois Illinois Maryland Virginia
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California Illinois Illinois Maryland Wirginia Washingtor
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California Illinois Maryland Wirginia Washingtor New York
Mr. Dennis J. Roberts, II + 1998	Rhode Island New York Illinois of Columbia Puerto Rico Louisiana Pennsylvania New York Illinois California Illinois Maryland Wirginia Washingtor New York New York
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J. L. Sigler + 2001 Florid
Mr. Jenaro D. Simpson • 2006 Delawar
Dr. Stuart D. Sleight • 2004
Deacon James E. Smith + 2008 Oklahom
Mrs. Margaret R. Smith + 2008 Florid
Ms. Virginia Smith + 1997 Montan
Rev. Richard S. Sniezyk + 1987 Florid
Ms. Mary J. Sobota + 2008 Wisconsis
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Spollen • 1982 New York
Ms. Kathryn Springs • 2011 Colorado
Marilyn Stahl • 2011
Ms. France F. Staudenmann • 2007 Maryland
Mr. Robert J. Steltenkamp • 2009 New Jerse
Ms. Ann M. Stuart • 1993 Colorado
Mr. Leo Stueve + 2005 Kansa
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Sullivan + 1995 Maryland
Mr. Patrick J. Sullivan • 1997 Virgini
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Swope + 2005 Florid
Mr. Anthony J. Tambasco + 2002 Virgini
Mrs. Mary Jean Tate + 1987 Arizon
Ms. Elisabeth M. Tetlow • 2005 Louisian
Mr. Frank J. Thomas + 2005 Missour
Mr. Stephen H. Thomas + 1992 Indian
Mr. Robert E. Tobin + 1991 New Hampshir
Mr. William R. Toller + 2008 Massachusett
Ms. Carol O'C. Toolan + 1991 New Jerse
Ms. Virginia Tracey • 2009 New Jerse
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#### BOOKS & CULTURE

#### ARCHITECTURE | MICHAEL E. DESANCTIS

#### **UPON THIS FOUNDATION**

Are new church designs taking us backward?

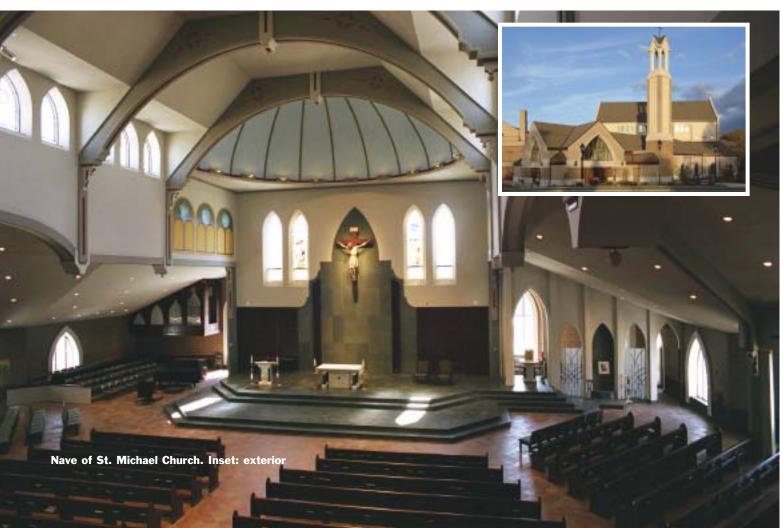
Just a decade ago, few observers of the Catholic architectural scene would have predicted a comeback of traditional-looking churches like those currently being constructed in parish communities across the United States. Until then, many architects and design professionals maintained that buildings as rich in historical detailing as those that served the pre-Vatican II church were beyond the means of most Catholic clients. More important, they thought that dressing new structures in period cos-

tume did not square theologically with the Second Vatican Council's demand for authenticity in every aspect of liturgical prayer.

Not everyone subscribes to the council's basics, of course. And not everyone sees the architectural implications in the same way. Some have concluded that overzealous interpretations of the *aggiornamento* heralded by the council, and a tendency to think that the new liturgy required new spatial accommodations, misled many parishes to assume that there was no

room in the contemporary place of worship for artistic conventions from the past. But to renew or reinvent itself, the church did not need to erase all physical traces of its past.

In recent years, this view has taken physical form in church architecture. Not only has dissatisfaction with the status quo grown. But anticipation of changes to the texts and texture of parish liturgical prayer has also spawned a revival of traditional-looking churches to replace the ubiquitous, Modernist structures of the previous half-century. Perhaps the same impulse within the church that has caused such changes in ritual practice as the decanting of the blood of Christ from "cup" to "chalice"—both literally and in the revised translation of the



Roman Missal—is also behind the return to traditional architecture.

Armed with Pope Benedict XVI's Christmas address to the Roman Curia in 2005, these proponents of the change (the neo-traditionalists) argue that the strictly forward-looking or Modernist architecture prevalent since the council embodies a "hermeneutic of discontinuity and rupture" that is inimical to the church's role as conservator of sacred memory.

Fortunately, the neo-traditionalists stop short of proposing a one-size-fitsall program for converting the physical environment of the liturgy back into a former version of itself. This point is best illustrated by two examples, the first a modification of the conciliar model, the second a departure from it.

#### St. Michael Church

The goal of parishioners at St. Michael Church in Wheaton, Ill., soon after a fire in 2002, was to erect a new, more symbolically potent structure they hoped would be "unmistakable as a Catholic church." Aided by Ruck/Pate Architects of Barrington, Ill., and a construction budget as lofty as its aspirations, the parish succeeded in creating a structure (2006) that weds the principles of sound liturgical theology to its a desire for something nobler than the typical "drywall church." The design preserves the assembly's essential unity and participatory character, the various modes and stations of Christ's appearance in ritual and the latent presence of baptism in every

Sacramental action.

In plan, the major worship setting is familiar, a fan-shaped space ringed by areas for devotional and social activities. A large immersion font on axis with the altar dominates the setting's entrance bay, not far from twin reconciliation chapels.

The building is distinguished by the manner in which the upper registers of its enclosing shell have been that the manner in the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the plant of the effect of a longitude of the plant of the pla

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St. John Neumann Church. Below: exterior.

dinal space terminating in a halfdomed apse—like those churches with which Catholic architectural history is replete. To this have been added stenciled truss-work and finish detailing in multicolored wood and marble that lend the interior volume a measure of luxury. The building's exterior features brick and cast-stone facing materials that hearken back to an era of masonry churches marked by permanence. Its ecclesiastical identity is amplified by a Gothic-style window and door surrounds and by an imposing bell

#### St. John Neumann Church

Similar details characterize the external form of St. John Neumann Church in Farragut, Tenn., (2008) inspired by Romanesque churches Normandy. From the hardy stone masses of its major body parts to the terracotta tiling of its roofs, St. John's embodies the qualities of rootedness, strength and durability, which its architects (Cram & Ferguson Architects of Concord, Mass.) and

client-parish impute to Catholic Christianity itself. More striking than the building's sheer monumentality, perhaps, is its cruciform plan-a spatial configuration largely absent from liturgical design since Vatican II because of its fracturing effect on the assembly. Here, however, the attenuated expanse of the building's nave and the strict delineation of precincts for lay and clerical function seem consistent with the overall goal of formality.



The interior presentation is enhanced by a full complement of stained glass windows and masonry finishes and by the kind of freestanding and applied sculpture likely to remind some older visitors of the churches of their youth.

As if to accentuate its departure from standardized models of postcon-

ciliar church-building, the design of St. John situates musicians in an old-fashioned choir loft at the rear of the nave, as

ON THE WEB
A slideshow of
new traditional churches.
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opposed to a site more integrated with the assembly seating. The design makes no provision for the baptism of adults by immersion.

It also breaks with the widespread practice of placing the tabernacle somewhere other than at the heart of the sanctuary, the rules for which are clearly outlined in "Built of Living Stones" (2000), the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' directive on church architecture. In St. John Neumann Church, the reserved Blessed

Sacrament is afforded optimum visibility behind the altar, where it is doubly tented beneath the domes of a metal tabernacle and marble ciborium.

Whether buildings like these are

compromises, aberrations or the first fruits of a full-blown "movement" in American Catholic church

design is still uncertain. Yet church architecture always raises the question, What is a church? Is it a temple in which God lives? A tent within which a pilgrim people assembles? Or many other things? And what does a post-Vatican II Catholic church look like if the answer is "both" or a variant of "all of the above"?

MICHAEL E. DeSANCTIS, a liturgical design consultant, is a professor of fine arts and director of the honors program at Gannon University in Erie, Pa.

#### **BOOKS** | DENNIS M. LEDER

#### THE OTHER SIDE OF FANTASY

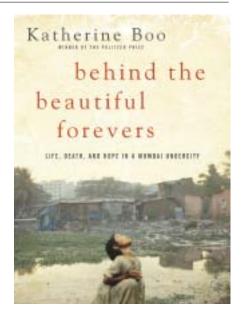
# BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVERS

Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity

By Katherine Boo Random House. 288p, \$27

Mahatma Gandhi considered separateness, the sin of the Self, the desire to "have the world say I," as the basic transgression against community and interdependence.

In contrast to separateness, Hindus and Buddhists alike have long advocated attitudes that foster solidarity: the sacredness of all living creatures, the principals of nonviolence, openness of the heart in compassion. Gandhi would say that these attitudes gain clarity through suffering. In 1931, in his weekly journal, *Young India*, he wrote: "...the penetration of the heart



comes from suffering. It opens up the inner understanding in man. Suffering is the badge of the human race...."

Suffering has surely elicited massive and generous response in moments of

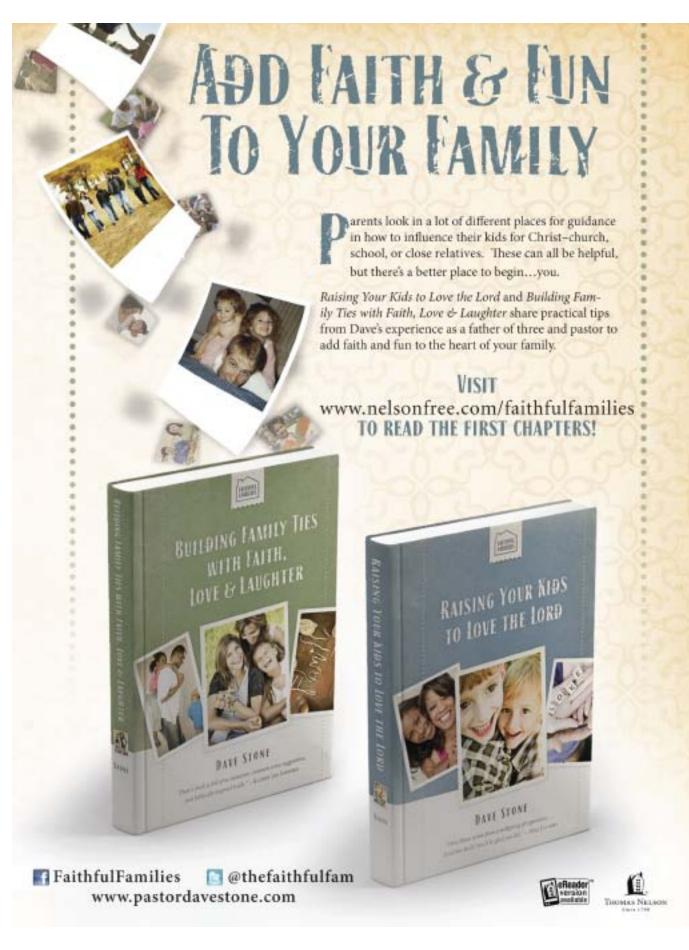
world crisis, but these exceptional moments are in notable contrast with ordinary modern life; we tend to flee from suffering and, consequently, experience a diminished sense of community and solidarity. Without a felt connection to the other, societies become indifferent or vengeful and out of touch with realities that penetrate the heart. Official claims promote liberty, justice and economic development, but what seems to be the motor of modern society is separateness, a virtue for the privileged and a weighty reality for the poor.

If our global economy proves more heartless than ever, what happens to the dreams of attaining a modest foothold in the world? This is the question that Katherine Boo began studying in poor communities in the United States. The investigation took on a new focus when the author married an Indian man and became acquainted with the complexities of an "infrastructure of opportunity" for the poorest citizens of developing India. If being poor in an affluent country like the United States poses significant challenges, what might be expected from a society with one third of the planet's poverty and a quarter of its hunger?

Believing that better arguments and even better government policies could result from knowledge of ordinary lives, the author set out to learn basic details from a desperately poor community in India's largest city, Mumbai.

She chose a community bordering the city's international airport. In 1991 the site was an unclaimed bog, which Tamil laborers from southern India cleared and settled. Neighboring communities, never hospitable toward migrants, begrudgingly applauded the enormous effort by giving the settlement a deferential Tamil name: "Annawadi" (the land of older brothers).

But this name, with its implications of fraternity, has little more than senti-



mental meaning in a community where conditions make it "blisteringly hard to be good." Life in an "undercity," like the slums of Mumbai, blunts the "capacity for moral action," making solidarity and fraternity almost impossible. Oftentimes the only route available for the poor is psychological separation from the drudgery of life and physical separation (anonymity or suicide) from corrupt civil authorities and neighbors envious of the slightest signs of success.

From November 2007 through March 2011, Katherine Boo carried out an investigation of the people of Annawadi. Recognizing a lack of nonfiction in modern day India, she decided to write an account with real people and real names. Drawing upon written

notes, photographs, video and audiotapes and more than 3,000 public records, she presents the story of survival in a precarious and disease-ridden settlement, whose inhabitants scarcely make a living from the waste of the grand hotels nearby. It is a story of ingenuity and feeble advances, of envy and catastrophic failure, of cultural discrimination and petty rivalries, of government corruption and indifference that feed on the vulnerability of the poor.

The author had clear reasons for concentrating her investigation on one community: In an "undercity" like Annawadi, where economic possibilities are as close as the international airport and its five glamorous hotels, an astute investigator would want to

observe who in the community actually advances and who does not.

The size of the community was another factor in the choice of Annawadi. Because of its manageable scale, the settlement made possible "door-to-door household surveys," allowing problems of a personal nature to be distinguished from those commonly shared by all. The author's success in accessing public records served to confirm what she heard in her interviews, and reveal how the poor and their daily sufferings are taken advantage of and then summarily erased from society's consciousness.

At the beginning of Boo's book the reader is introduced to a crisis in the family of Abdul, a teenage Muslim boy whose entire life has been spent "buying and selling to recyclers the things that richer people threw away." The saga of Abdul and his family runs through the book's narrative. Other figures emerge larger than life in a population of "undercitizens," some outstanding for their ingenuity, ethical imagination and innate nobility, others consumed by the Self and controlled by envy or the need for power and economic gain.

The author offers no remedy for the hopelessness of Annawadi or for our global sin of the Self. Nonetheless, her narrative has a tone of hope in its clear preference for the "undercitizens" and its rejection of the powers that exploit them.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers is an invitation to look on the other side of well-being and fantasy, and identify with a world of stark reality where the majority of humanity lives. Gandhi would say that the very willingness to do so is redemptive, because in sharing suffering, we share our common condition, and the resultant solidarity is itself the catalyst for change.

#### Suscipe

You know me, and You love me: dark and light.
You know my shadows and my meteors.
Eclipses, supernovas. All are Yours.
You know my good and evil. In my night
You blaze stars. Take my fervor and my will,
My comprehension and my memory.
I beg you to enthrall my liberty.
Please drain me, so that You alone will fill
My spirit. I know loving takes its toll.
Relentless love had left me in despair,
But harrowed in my hell, I saw You there.
Please take the shreds that are my weary soul.
Inspire with your breath this barren sod
To bloom and glorify You, Triune God.

MARY-PATRICE WOEHLING

MARY-PATRICE WOEHLING teaches English at the Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates, N.Y. She has been a finalist in poetry competitions in Scotland and England.

**DENNIS M. LEDER, S.J.,** director of the Central American Institute in Miami, Fla., writes from Guatemala City in Guatemala.

#### MAURICE TIMOTHY REIDY

#### **I-VISIONARY**

#### STEVE JOBS

By Walter Isaacson Simon & Schuster. 627p \$35

There are many ways to assess the legacy of the prickly, irascible, brilliant Steve Jobs, but perhaps the most perceptive critique came from Lev Grossman of Time magazine.

Commenting on Apple's first iPad, Grossman wrote in April 2010: "The iPad shifts the emphasis from creating content to merely absorbing and manipulating it. It mutes you, turns you back into a passive consumer of other people's masterpieces."

The famously combative Jobs took Grossman's words seriously. In the next generation of the iPad, Apple included more tools for creating content rather than simply consuming it. Yet six months after Jobs's death from cancer, and in the shadow of Walter Isaacson's weighty tome on his life, Grossman's critique still provokes questions. What was Jobs's principal contribution to American culture? Was he a true father of innovation, or was his real achievement the creation of a generation of expert consumers?

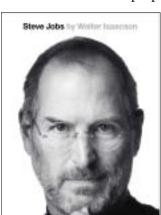
There is little doubt as to how Jobs would answer the question. The appearance of Isaacson's biography so soon after Jobs's death is a testament to his dogged determination to shape his legacy. It was Jobs who approached Isaacson to write the book, knowing full well that Isaacson's previous subjects were Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein. Jobs clearly saw himself as an inventor in the tradition of these pioneers.

Is that judgment warranted? Judging from the positive press following Jobs's death, the question seems already to have been answered. Yet a close examination of his life, seen through the lens of Isaacson's impressive if unwieldy reportage, reveals a more complex story.

Jobs certainly saw himself as an

artist. A basic fact of his life that many people did not know until his death was that he was not a tech guru. Unlike Bill Gates or Steve Wozniak. Apple's cofounder, Jobs was not trained as a computer programmer. Technology fascinated him, of course, but his genius was in the marketing of the product, not the mak-

ing of it. Jobs liked to say that he worked "at the intersection of humanities and sciences." It is as good a description as any of his career. In a

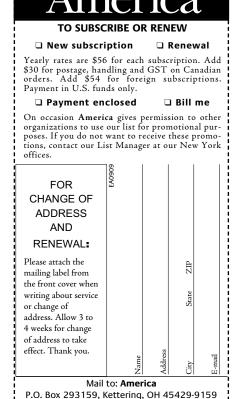


now famous commencement speech at Stanford University, Jobs explained that Apple's innovative graphical interface was inspired by a class he took in calligraphy at Reed College.

Jobs treated artists better than most other people in his life. Isaacson's biog-

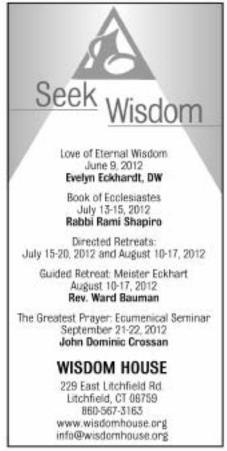
> raphy is filled with anecdotes describing Jobs's petulant behavior toward friends, family and colleagues. (His early years at Apple, before he was forced out in 1985, were particularly turbulent.) Yet people like John Lasseter, the cofounder Pixar Animation Studios, and Jonathan Ive, the designer of Apple's iconic products, generally commanded his

respect. Jobs spent several years as chief executive at Pixar, the studio that produced "Finding Nemo," "Wall-E" and other innovative films. Isaacson



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describes the experience as a formidable one: "It was at Pixar that he learned to let other creative people flourish and take the lead."

The result, upon Jobs's return to Apple in 1997, was a string of striking and novel products, each more popular than the previous. At Apple Jobs cultivated a culture of artistic integrity that drew upon his own passion for simple design and sleek European aesthetics. He treated every element of design and development with the utmost seriousness. Even the interior design of products mattered. Earlier in his career Jobs's obsessive nature infuriated colleagues, but this time it worked to his advantage. When the first Apple store opened in 2001, complete with Italian stone Jobs chose himself, critics widely expected a failure. They were wrong. Apple's Fifth Avenue store in New York, for example, grosses more per square foot than any other store in the world.

Isaacson's biography overflows with

this kind of detail. The result of hundred of interviews, including several with Jobs in his last days, *Steve Jobs* is a classic example of the challenges facing biographers in the digital age. Isaacson simply had too much material to work with. At almost 600 pages, the book reads like a series of well-reported magazine articles, but it has little sense of narrative sweep. Steve Jobs will be

the subject of a great biography some day, but this is not it. More time and historical distance are required.

A future biographer will have to wrestle with the working conditions in Apple's factories in China. Strangely, Isaacson ignores this part of the Jobs story. It may take a cultural critic to explore Jobs's life and legacy fully, to discern how his inventions shaped the culture. Already we have seen the way the iPod has changed the way people listen to music. Singles and personal playlists

take precedence over albums curated by seasoned producers. Yet the iPod has also given rise to social habits that have yet to be truly understood. The culture of tuning out, white earphones in place, has significant ramifications for social and political engagement.

The iPad, too, seems destined to change the way we choose to amuse ourselves. Before long, tablet devices

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may replace desktop computers, making the process of creativity that much more difficult. Even with the

new additions prompted by Grossman's review (for editing music and video, for example), the iPad is still primarily a vehicle for consumption. Why sit down to compose a song, or write a book review, when you can check email or stream movies on Netflix? Even reading on the iPad poses a challenge for the restless mind. The Thorn Birds cannot compete with





Angry Birds.

Of course, Steve Jobs is not solely responsible for these developments. An eager public has made Apple the most profitable company in the world. With his exquisite attention to detail and cool artistic style, Jobs nearly perfected the digital experience. We are all living in his world now.

MAURICE TIMOTHY REIDY is online editor of America.

GERALD T. COBB

#### A STORMY BEAUTY

#### THE STARBOARD SEA

By Amber Dermont St. Martin's. 310p. \$24.99

After reading Amber Dermont's ambitious first novel, The Starboard Sea, a friend of mine remarked half admiringly and half critically, "She has written the great American novels, plural." The novel is clearly influenced by classics like Moby Dick, The Catcher in the Rye, The Sun Also Rises, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man and Kate Chopin's The Awakening. Dermont freshly imagines and updates the coming-of-age novel to include contemporary concerns like teen bullying, confusion about sexual identity and the

national character of the United States.

We first meet the 18year-old narrator and protagonist, Prosper, in 1988, driving with his father to begin senior year of high school at Bellingham Academy, a school of last resort for teenagers dismissed from other institutions. Under a veneer of wealth and prestige, these young

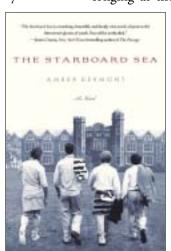
people smolder with unresolved passions and a proclivity to violence. Jason observes, "We weren't bad people, but having failed that initial test of innocence and honor, we no longer felt burdened to be good."

At its heart the novel is the tale of Jason's star-crossed love life, marked first by his relationship with a roommate named Cal from his previous school and then by a burgeoning passion for Aidan, a young woman he meets at Bellingham. Jason finds himself psychologically at sea sorting out his memories of Cal from his hopes with respect to Aidan. When Jason's brother takes him to a whaling museum in New Bedford and observes, "You and Cal were like Ishmael and Queequeg" Jason tells himself, "If Cal was my past, Aidan was quickly becoming my future."

Dermont places a quasi-spiritual longing at the heart of her novel, as

> Jason seeks redemption and forgiveness for his past wrongs everywhere except in formally religious environments. He says of his favorite book. Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises, "You could learn a lot about what it must have been like to go to war, to be wounded and unable to return to your former life. How Jake's impo-

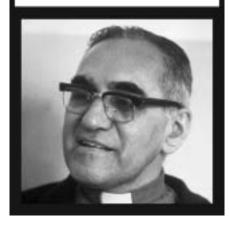
expatriation were a metaphor for his guilt." Everyone in the novel seems to be in flight from shame and failure. The academy's headmaster preaches "shame is the scourge of cowards," but Dermont





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raises the possibility that there is a holy shame that comes from acknowledging one's wrongs and grieving their

Jason's name alludes both to the leader of the Argonauts and to Shakespeare's island wizard Prospero. He is portrayed as simultaneously heroic and anti-heroic, for he is capable of despicable actions but also admirable in his radical devotion to those he loves.

Dermont skillfully charts the mood swings of adolescence, from giddy euphoria to suicidal depression; but occasionally her writing seems artificial, as when she makes the names of three female characters—Aidan, Nadia and Diana—to be anagrams of one another. This implausibility briefly makes the novel feel like a creative writing class exercise, and in fact Dermont is a professor of English and creative writing at Agnes Scott College. Midway through the novel the plot quickens as Jason ponders his peers' penchant for violence and the thin line between hazing and homi-

Dermont's unanchored youths suffer much, but within that pain Jason and Cal's love for one another had opened a vista for them to the "starboard sea" that Cal defined as "the right sea, the true sea, or like finding the best path in life." Dermont's descriptions of competitive sailing echo Melville's richly detailed whaling arcana, but the breezes blowing through the book are also deeply symbolic of the shifting and perilous fortunes of young adulthood. Jason is storm-tossed and shipwrecked more than once.

Many readers will find this a richly rewarding novel portraying a sensitive youth's growth into adulthood. The American dream symbolized by the green light at the end of a dock in The Great Gatsby has always had something to do with adolescence, whether delayed or occurring at an age-appropriate moment. It seems to be a time of life that is simultaneously euphoric with new freedoms and tragically sad with losses, whether the loss of childhood, a childhood companion, or one's idealized image of one's parents.

Several carefully woven images recur throughout the novel, including Jason's desire to learn celestial navigation, his laboring to write an honest autobiographical essay for Princeton University application and images of storms, shipwrecks, secrets and stars. Cal and Jason charted their lives together beginning with the gold stars awarded by their grade school teacher and then moved to the mythically named constellations by which sailors navigate.

Dermont's frankness about the late 1980s version of adolescent cruelty and promiscuity may strike some readers as alarming or indelicate, but the author needs these moments in order to bring alive her important larger themes of self-forgiveness and forgiveness of others. Jason's sins are the sins of a not completely free person, someone bewildered by love, which acts as a mysterious wind, impossible to control or read precisely. The novel fittingly ends with an ambiguous scene that the reader must interpret. Dermont has laid out her fine and beautiful novel like the star constellations she describes, and the reader must chart his or her own journey through a rewarding and challenging narrative.

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GERALD T. COBB, S.J., is associate professor in the English department at Seattle University.

#### LETTERS

#### Renewal Service

Re "Vatican Seeks Reform of L.C.W.R. After Doctrinal Assessment" (Signs of the Times, 5/7): No organization is immune from criticism from within or without. That certainly is true of the Vatican and the various dicasteries and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is true of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The C.D.F. assessment found serious doctrinal problems, a watering down of the Christological center and focus of religious communities and a loss of a lively sense of church among some religious. The L.C.W.R. leadership was criticized for not correcting erroneous visions and positions, for not exercising the charity of "fraternal" correction. The conference was perceived as favoring or at least not speaking out against the ordination of women and initiatives in promoting the reception of the church's teaching on homosexuality were absent.

Organizations are defined by mission. Missions tend to be specific. The L.C.W.R. focused on social justice issues.

It seems to me that there are valid concerns for a collaborative examination of the issues raised. But there is a cultural divide between the Roman style of operating and the American expectation of inclusive participation in decision making. It is not so much a gender issue as a cultural issue. authoritarian versus democratic.

What is mind-boggling is the lack of understanding and sensitivity to women's issues in Rome as they pertain to the United States. Today the church trails behind the corporate world in the acknowledgment of the ability and competence of women. Historically women religious surpassed the secular institutions in achieving positions of leadership, such as chief executive officers of hospitals, presidents of universities and executives of social services

agencies. Today women are the backbone of the church's ministries; 85 percent of the volunteer work in parishes is done by women.

It was my good fortune to have served as liaison of the U.S.C.C.B. to both Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association. Often it was these two organizations that took the initiative in promoting a collaborative working relationship with the bishops' conference. They brought to the table not only knowledge of Catholic social teaching on public policy issues, but practical experience as providers of services—what works and what doesn't.

In over four decades of work in social services and health care, I have had the opportunity to work closely with women religious. They were professionally trained, always prepared and consistently followed through on assignments. They were motivated by a deep faith in God and a love of God's people. They were holy people, dependable and accountable. So many had a deep compassion for the poor.

What was distinctive about their lives was a capacity to deal with issues openly and honestly. They had the gift of discernment as members of a community. They were able to live with differences and yet maintain a profound unity. They lived and acted collegially. It is my hope in the renewal of the L.C.W.R. that those entrusted to work with the nuns will be evangelized in the process. If anyone can rescue the church from this public relations disaster, I believe it is the women religious.

(MOST REV.) JOSEPH M. SULLIVAN FORMER AUXILIARY BISHOP DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN Brooklyn, N.Y.

#### CLASSIFIED

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#### **Faith From Within**

Coming from a group of somewhat more traditionally oriented women, I find myself looking on with great sympathy and indignation on behalf of my sisters in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. I think it laudable that the assessment seeks to reconcile the "minds and hearts" of our sisters to the "minds and hearts" of those who are currently in authority Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, but I believe this goal would have been more effectively achieved if the C.D.F. had sought union through humble listening in an open forum, as theological equals and colleagues, instead of through secrecy and intimidation.

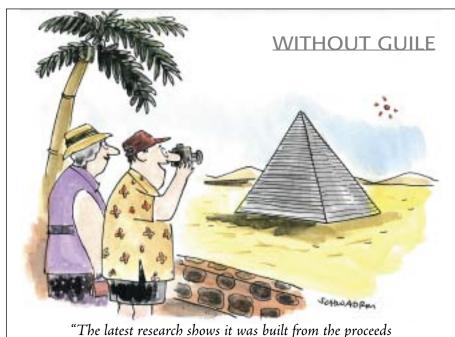
Our L.C.W.R. sisters tend to be very well educated, not only in the subjects of faith and theology, but also in the sciences, psychology and the arts. They have not been cosseted in positions of authority with little to no familiarity with the ordinary faith experiences of the people of God in the world; these

sisters have been right there in the real world; tending, feeding, clothing, healing and educating. The men of the C.D.F. would do very well to listen to these women who have a greater "secular" education and more "secular" experience, as well as to the people whose faith they are ostensibly guarding, because faith has everything to do with the secular world. That is where people live, and that is where God lives, too.

Faith does not come from above at the end of a heavy stick; it comes from within. Well thought out, logical and persuasive theology is a much better approach; especially if it is itself open to transformation through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps our leaders in the C.D.F. will come and join us one day here on planet earth so that together we may "joyously rediscover our faith" and be renewed, so that we can truly experience a union of minds and hearts, as God intended.

(SISTER) PATRICIA CARY, O. CARM. Kearney, Neb.

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of a gigantic pyramid sales scheme."

#### **Bully Pulpit**

Why was I not surprised to read about this next attack on religious sisters by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith? There seems to be some confusion between the teachings of Jesus and church proclamation. At least sisters are given some credit for "promoting issues of social justice." Dialogue and respect are never mentioned, only that Rome will provide review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work of the L.C.W.R. The bullying never lets up!

CATHLEËN RYAN, O.P. New Britain, Conn.

#### **Exit Interviews**

Three days after reading "Why They Left," I spoke with an active and supportive member of my parish and asked why I hadn't seen him and his wife at Mass lately. His complaints echoed those listed in the article, especially those concerning bishops covering up child abuse.

I sent him a copy of the article in the hope of maintaining the dialogue we had established about his departure. I then sent the article to a few members of the parish staff with a suggestion that when someone "goes missing" from Mass, an interested member of the community (not staff or pastor) should reach out and at least conduct an exit interview. The interview would not overtly try to bring the person back, but would give the missing an opportunity to communicate his or her complaints. The interview results could be used to clear up misunderstandings, serve as a basis for possible later reconciliation and provide feedback to parish staff.

> WILLIAM BARLAK Burbank, Calif.

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# Love Makes Sense of God

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (B), JUNE 3, 2012

Readings: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 33:4-22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

"The Lord is God and there is no other" (Dt 4:35)

S. Eliot once remarked that "there are some things about which we can say nothing, but before which we dare not keep silent." This is a good starting place for the Christian understanding of God. Since our concepts apply to the world of objects in the physical universe, and God is not part of this, God cannot be conceptualized exactly. The witness of our philosophers, theologians and saints tells us that God dwells in absolute mystery. So when we consider divine revelation concerning God, we must be mindful of our limits.

But we dare not keep silent. In today's first reading, we find Moses finishing his first long speech in Deuteronomy. It is clear that Yahweh is not one of many gods, a point that Israel did not really grasp until after the exile. Rather, there is only one God. "All this you were allowed to see that you might know the Lord is God and there is no other."

Christianity, of course, remains loyal to this monotheism; our God is the God of Abraham, and there is only one God. But now we have to deal with such revelation as "The Word was with God and the Word was God" (In 1:1), "the Lord is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:17). In the Gospel, Jesus sends his disciples out into the world "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). This reflects the baptismal formula of the early church and obviously witnesses to a Trinitarian revelation.

Now how does one conceive of one God as Trinity? Are there three divine beings separate from each other but all sharing the same divine nature? Scripture often seems to say this: the Father sending the Son, the Son giving us the Spirit, the Son glorifying the Father and the like. The use of the term persons also conjures up images of distinction. But such distinction, taken absolutely, undermines the monotheism of "The Lord is God and there is no other."

Or perhaps we might consider a single divine being who is experienced in three modes. This view protects monotheism, but hardly seems Trinitarian. This position became known as the heresy of Sabellianism, and it has not been completely stamped out. Last Trinity Sunday I heard a homily in which the priest likened the Trinity to ice, water and vapor—three expressions of the same substance. After Mass I felt like saying, "You know you're a heretic, right?" Instead, I said something like, "Nice homily, Father" and let it go. The early church debated for centuries about the Trinity, mostly deciding on what was unacceptable, trying to protect both revelation and the mystery of God.

The dogma of the Trinity is central to Christian spirituality. Our tradition sees the Holy Spirit as the spiritual horizon through which we come to the risen Christ. Life in the Spirit brings us intimacy with Jesus. We believe that the Father is the eternal source

> from which the Son and Spirit eternally proceed. This gives the Father a kind of priority as we pray to the Father through the Son, in the Spirit.

The dogma of the Trinity tells me that the very nature of divinity is dynamic love. For any lover there must be a beloved, and

#### PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

- · Consider how your love is creative.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer very slowly; repeat the phrases for 20 minutes.

love shared abounds in creative power. Love gives love (Father to Son), shares love (Son and Father) and becomes a fountain of life (Holy Spirit). Love itself is triune. The Holy Spirit is the life of the church because the Spirit is the common good of the Father and the Son. The Spirit infuses us with God's love for us and draws us into the mystery of our redemption. We know the Trinity not by mental abstractions but by the experience of the Father's love for us, infused with the Spirit in intimacy with Jesus Christ. Trinity is a mystery for sure, but not meant for confusion. Fundamentally, the dogma of the Trinity reveals profound truths about God's dynamic life and love.

PETER FELDMEIER

PETER FELDMEIER is the Murray/Bacik Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo.



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> Additional details and registration information are available online at: www.scs.edu or www.sjvcenter.org