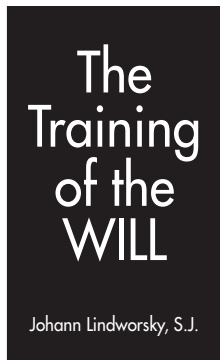


Just how weak is your will-power?

There are ways to find out, and Catholic methods to strengthen it



The Training of the Will

Johann Lindworsky, S.J.

Softcover,
\$19.95

What's the difference between saints, heroes, other great achievers—and the rest of us? Not their natural gifts, but their acquired ability to focus their wills toward high aims, writes the distinguished psychologist (of the old school), Jesuit Johann Lindworsky.

A pioneer in the psychology of the will, Fr. Lindworsky penned many scholarly works, but nothing for the average layman until this popular book was written in 1929.

But he had a second, vital purpose: to counteract dangerous writings in psychology that were luring Catholics into error. Grounded in sound science and Catholic principles, Fr. Lindworsky's wisdom is as timeless and effective as most modern "self-help" books are faddish and misleading.

Catholic ways to reach your full potential

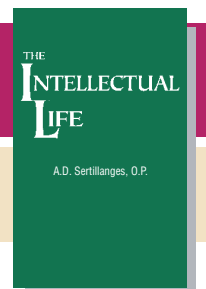
- ◆ The essential difference between a strong and a weak will. How even otherwise "weak" men can accomplish great deeds
- ◆ Four conditions for successful action. Three necessary "stages" in every act of willing
- ◆ Living up to resolutions. Where many of us fail
- ◆ What virtues do you most lack?
- ◆ Right and wrong ways to control our thoughts. Training the imagination
- ◆ False theories of the will. How "common sense" is one with "Catholic"
- ◆ Wandering attention? Easily distracted? The secret of focusing
- ◆ Tend to hesitate and miss your opportunities? Your cure
- ◆ Overcoming sensual passions. How even the weakest person can succeed
- ◆ The first rule for overcoming faults

Does Fr. Lindworsky's method work?

"My means are infallible," he stated boldly when the book first appeared in 1929, but, "I cannot just hand them over to you. I can only say: Here, beneath this surface rock, gold is hidden; dig for it, doing your level best."

For every Catholic who aspires to intellectual or creative excellence:

a timeless "treasury of wisdom" about pursuing the life of the mind—drawn not only from St. Thomas Aquinas, but a score of other geniuses too



Grounding his work on St. Thomas's *Sixteen Principles for Acquiring the Treasure of Knowledge*, and citing the precepts and practice of the most creative minds in history, Fr. A.D. Sertillanges, OP, shows that the intellectual must adopt a "rule of life," analagous to that of the religious life, which will put him entirely at the disposal of his work. First published in 1920, this authentic masterpiece had an immense circulation in France and went through repeated reprints.

- ✦ "It might well be subtitled *How to Organize Your Life*."
- ✦ St. Thomas: how our "likings" help us discern our vocation in life
- ✦ Explained: "Great men seem to us men of great boldness; in reality they are more obedient than others."
- ✦ Why purity of thought requires purity of soul—while passions and vices are "formidable enemies of the mind"
- ✦ The particular virtue that is proper to the intellectual. Its two contrary vices
- ✦ Three virtues essential to creative work. Personality flaws that are especially harmful
- ✦ Why St. Thomas warns, "Do not seek what is beyond your reach." The right—and wrong—kind of ambition
- ✦ Explained: "Every study is a study of eternity"
- ✦ Guidelines for working conditions, posture, exercise, vacations, sleep, diet
- ✦ How to arrange your exterior life—framework, schedule, obligations, personal contacts, setting—so that everything is directed toward your work
- ✦ Why mortification of the senses is necessary for thought

18 excellent photos and illustrations
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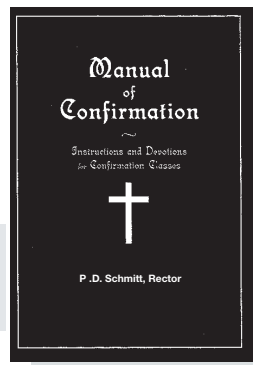
- ✦ Dangers of excessive comfort
- ✦ Special mission and duties of the *wife* of an intellectual
- ✦ Children: how, despite the troubles and cares they bring, they can enrich your vocation and heighten your inspiration
- ✦ The need for solitude—and how to safeguard it
- ✦ Avoiding the *false* solitude that indulges "interior babble, the solicitation of desire" and other distractions
- ✦ "He who knows the value of time always has enough": how to accomplish your creative work on as little as two hours a day
- ✦ The "spirit of earnestness," the "habit of effort," and the "habit of concentration": why they matter; how to cultivate them
- ✦ The first rule of reading: "to read little." The important wisdom behind this surprising advice
- ✦ Four *kinds* of reading—each with its own purpose and methods
- ✦ Reading for *information* vs. reading for *formation*
- ✦ The management of memory: what to remember, in what order, and how to remember it
- ✦ St. Thomas's four rules for training and using the memory
- ✦ Three essential qualities of style. What distinguishes a true and original writing style from a false and imitative one
- ✦ The "ruses of sloth"—and how to outwit them

"A small work of genius...For the serious thinker, the book is both deep consolation and vaunting inspiration."

—Chilton Williamson, Jr., *The American Conservative*

The earliest manual of Confirmation for general use is now back in print

Enormously popular a century ago because it laid out all the basic required knowledge in a readable way for students—and spoke to parents and clergy



The chief resource for Confirmation preparation for more than 1,000 dioceses in the U.S. and Europe over four decades

Features:

- ◆ Question and Answer format makes the doctrinal points easy to memorize and understand
- ◆ Forgotten (and beautiful) devotional prayers to the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Scriptural origins of the Sacrament, outlined
- ◆ Development of the prayers and ritual in early Christian tradition, also outlined
- ◆ Full text of Leo XIII's great encyclical on the Holy Spirit, *Divinum Illud*
- ◆ Duties of parents both before and after Confirmation
- ◆ Bishop's key role and why
- ◆ Explained: gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Traditional Confirmation ceremony
- ◆ Confirmation names and sponsors: how and why?

Author and skilled educationist Fr. P.J. Schmitt also addresses

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these crucial points, long neglected in Confirmation training:

- ◆ Explaining the rite of Confirmation, line by line
- ◆ Where Protestants and Catholics disagree on the need for a Sacramental life, and why Confirmation and Baptism are distinct in the Acts of the Apostles
- ◆ In fact, say the Fathers of the early Church, without Confirmation you cannot be a perfect Christian
- ◆ The “ordinary” and “extraordinary” effects of Confirmation; why the extraordinary effects ceased after apostolic times and should not be expected today
- ◆ The need to adore the Holy Spirit with distinct and special devotion

Complete with hymns to the Holy Spirit...the Novena and Litany in honor of the Holy Spirit...Acts before and after Confirmation, this marvelous guide is far too important to leave only to those preparing for the Sacrament itself.

“Could be the most powerful and effective vindication of the old Latin Mass.”

Continues Thomas E. Woods Jr., historian and *N.Y. Times* national best-selling author:

“...One of the rare ‘must-read’ books about the Latin Mass. It lays bare the obtuseness of those who would treat the immemorial Roman rite as a text in need of editing.”

German writer Martin Mosebach is as famous in his country as Tom Wolfe is in ours. So when he wrote a book about the destruction of the old Latin Mass, Church leaders and the secular world took note. His view of the new rite of Mass in force since Vatican II goes deeper than any other yet published. Mosebach sees the normative Mass today, precisely because it is at the core of Catholic life for most souls, as the tragic product of wholesale manipulation and compromise with the world, from its gestures and rubrics (or lack of them) to its bad translations and committee-invented prayers.



Quality Ignatius softcover, \$16.95

The Heresy of Formlessness

But he does not stop with his evaluation of the new Mass. He defends the old, and summons fellow Catholics to drop their prejudices against it, embrace it as their forefathers did, and restore it to its proper place in the Church.

Excerpts from the Mosebach *tour de force*:

On ‘refurbishing’ old churches: “No one who really believes in the power of...prayer would be so reckless as to scorn and wreck something that has been sanctified by prayer.”

On Mass when you have to focus on the priest: “How can a man be made to see that he is leaving the present time behind if the space he enters is totally dominated by the presence of one particular individual? How wise the old liturgy was when it prescribed that the congregation should not see the priest’s face—his distractedness or coldness or (even more importantly) his devotion and emotion.”

On hymns at Mass: “In services that are governed by vernacular hymns, the believer is constantly being transported into new aesthetic worlds....He is moved and stirred—but not by the thing itself, liturgy; he is moved and stirred by the expressed sentiments of the commentary upon it. By contrast, the bond that Gregorian chant weaves between liturgical action and song is so close that it is impossible to separate form and content.”

On the suppression of the old Latin Mass: “This rite has been abandoned by the very hierarchy who were created to guard it. Priests who stay faithful to the liturgy are accused of disobedience and threatened with suspension; priests who want to remain obedient, but are not willing to relinquish the old rite, are gleefully ground down by what Carl Schmitt calls the ‘celibate bureaucracy’.”

On attending today’s parish Mass: “The club meeting with its democratic order of business is the phenotype of the new liturgy.”

On irreverence before the Eucharist: “...To me, it is exactly the same when I see people still on their feet in front of the elevated Host, when I see them entering a church without genuflecting, and receiving Communion in their outstretched hands. I, myself, see it as a degradation, a pointed, symbolic refusal to give honor.”

Landmark Catholic book on the psychology of sexuality

The Sexual Revolution that has brought such misery to the lives of millions actually began with the triumph of Freudian psychology—but even then, Freud’s most formidable opponent, Georgetown and Catholic University psychologist Rudolf Allers, was composing this enormously successful guide. Both practical and innovative, it is the earliest handbook on Christian sexuality. Completely rejecting Freud’s over-emphasis on sex, Dr. Allers begins by answering three questions:



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- ◆ Just what part does sex play in the human personality?
- ◆ What importance does it have in forming your children’s or grandchildren’s character?
- ◆ How does sex manifest itself during the stages of character development?

Dr. Allers proceeds to lay out a sound psychology of sex—with crucial advice for instructing the young—wherein sex takes its place within a hierarchy of values crowned by moral truths. Among them:

- Step-by-step guidelines for how and when to instruct your children on sexual matters
- Sex differences between men and women. Developmental differences between boys and girls
- Sexual difficulties in matrimony: causes and remedies

“An authoritative volume—recommended to every cultured teacher or parent....His philosophy is sound, his science is that of an expert.”—*Catholic World* (c. 1937)

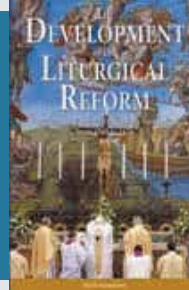
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“Presents views that raise questions and provide considerable material for discussion about the liturgical reform before and after the Second Vatican Council.”

—Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, La Maison-Dieu, 2002



Published for the first time in English and based on the diaries and notes of Cardinal Ferdinando Antonelli, a pivotal figure in the Catholic Church’s liturgical-reform movement both before and after the Second Vatican Council, *The Development of the Liturgical Reform* shows that the Council’s vision for the Mass has yet fully to develop.

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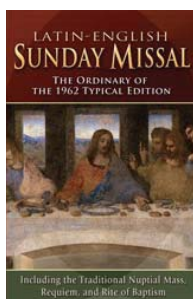
- Albert Malcolm Ranjith, *Archbishop of Colombo*, Foreword
- Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, *Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments*
- Phil Lawler, *CatholicCulture.org*

“Sheds new light on the reform of the liturgy from 1948 to 1970....Anyone interested in the reform of Catholic liturgy and the history of how we got to where we are today should read this important book.”

—Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J., *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*

“Most certainly an important addition to the corpus of available materials on this subject. For those who have an interest in this subject, and particularly for those who have already invested in Bugnini’s and Marini’s own accounts, this is certainly a must-have.”—*New Liturgical Movement*

“Contains priceless information about the official liturgical reforms in the Catholic Church over the past century....To people who have taken a keen interest in liturgical reform and have read about it both from the perspective of those who support it and those who do not, this volume helps put everything into perspective, separating the wheat from the chaff.”—*New Oxford Review*



As beautiful a Sunday missal for the old Latin Mass as has ever been published—and a meaningful Christmas gift

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After 30 years, *still* the best treatment of the subject in the back of everyone's mind

"[Pope John Paul II] is driven by his foreboding that the world is heading toward a moral apocalypse."—*Newsweek*, 1979

The late pope's preoccupation came as no surprise to readers of Fr. Vincent Miceli's timeless book, which masterfully summarized Church teaching on the End Times. Fr. Miceli keynotes his investigation of the last days with this quote from John Paul II:

"I do not think the wide circles of American society or the wide circles of the Christian community realize...we are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the Anti-Church."

Fr. Miceli doesn't pretend to know who the Antichrist is, where he'll appear, or when. But he does line up the signs of the times— linking these signs with the prophecies in Daniel, the New Testament, the early Church Fathers— and prophetic modern voices like Newman, Solzhenitsyn, Pius XII. Some of his insights are jolting:

- ◆ Role of Islam and Judaism in the end times
- ◆ 6 key features of the modern world that correspond alarmingly with apocalyptic prophecy
- ◆ To whom does God give the gift of prophecy? How should we look upon modern-day evangelists who claim the gift? Rules for recognizing false prophets
- ◆ 3 stages in the evolution of evil as it prepares man to receive and worship Antichrist. How far have we proceeded?
- ◆ The Antichrist and the New Christianity. Five marks of the latter, all dissected
- ◆ How Western— especially American— society's war against religion in public life corresponds to key apocalyptic prophecies
- ◆ Antichrist's precursors: how to identify
- ◆ One reliable sign of the Antichrist. Five things we know about him. Will he be different from Satan? One man or many? For answers, Fr. Miceli turns to Scripture and the early Fathers
- ◆ Valuable bibliography that points you to *reliable* books on apocalyptic themes



**Cardinal Newman
on the Antichrist in
two pivotal chapters**

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- ◆ 10 features of Antichrist's religion, according to Church Fathers. Where will he rise? How he will persecute the Church.
- ◆ Common misconceptions about the Antichrist spread by televangelists and popular books

Fr. Miceli avoids the extravagant speculation that mars many popular books on apocalyptic themes, including some Catholic ones. Which may explain this enthusiastic note from the late theologian of the Papal Household, Cardinal L. Ciappi: "The theme is so appropriate...may it have a large and influential reception."

"Passionate...founded on sound scholarship... among the very few to be prized in the plethora of modern apocalyptic literature."
—Paul Hallett, *National Catholic Register*

"The havoc that has been made on the devil's behalf among Catholics and in their Church is so drastic and widespread as to leave an outsider like myself baffled and bewildered....The examples given in this vein by Fr. Miceli are hair-raising, and it is greatly to his credit that he has the courage and integrity to cite them....In war it is necessary, not just to have adequate forces for attack and defence, but also to study the enemy's past and present strategy and tactics. This is staff work, for which, in the everlasting Holy War against the Devil, The Antichrist is a masterly textbook....I thank God that there are priests and teachers like Fr. Miceli to act as His intelligence officer."
—Malcolm Muggeridge in his Foreword

"Heart-pounding...valuable...can be interrupted only with pain....It is indeed refreshing to see the words of Scripture taken seriously."
—Rev. R. W. Gilsdorf,
Homiletic & Pastoral Review

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A month of walking through Spain?

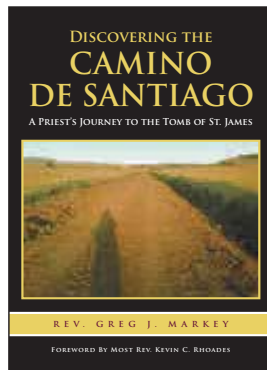
But no ordinary month—this was the fabled pilgrimage to the Tomb of St. James.

If Fr. Gregory Markey can do it, well, you can too. At least from your armchair.

A priest-pastor chronicles the month-long life and times of a pilgrim, in a delightful yet sober account, as he endures, and enjoys, the much-celebrated Camino de Santiago.

This peaceful journey—web-free, phone-free, and TV-free—generated an astonishing array of brief but meaty spiritual reflections. Roman Catholic Books asked Fr. Markey to put the writings into this book.

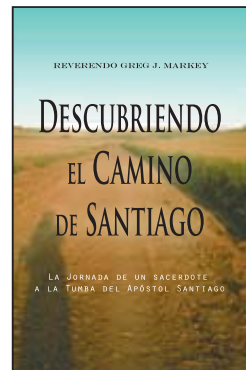
Throughout his long journey Fr. Markey, displaying both a keen mind and a pastoral heart, found spiritual lessons for himself and his flock, to whom he wrote.



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Foreword by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



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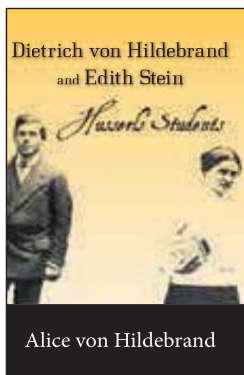
“Enjoyable, insightful, enriching journey...The beautiful universal insights and lessons in this gem help us all realize how to live a blessed pilgrimage in life’s journey too.”—*National Catholic Register*

“...von Hildebrand will be most prominent...”

—Benedict XVI

“When the intellectual history of the Catholic Church in the twentieth century is written,” said Pope Benedict XVI, “the name of Dietrich von Hildebrand will be most prominent among the figures of our time.” Edith Stein was, said *Time* magazine, “One of the most remarkable women of her time.”

Born two years apart, both were converts to Catholicism and students of Edmund Husserl, the noted 20th century philosopher. Although they met during their lives, they only knew



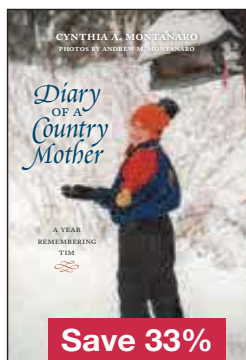
each other casually. Yet there were major similarities in their lives.

Noted Catholic author, lecturer and philosopher Alice von Hildebrand has taken on the task of briefly profiling these two great 20th century Catholics, using as her point of reference the memoirs of each.

Dietrich von Hildebrand and Edith Stein: Husserl's Students
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“A beautiful book.” —Kimberly Hahn

“I have just this minute put down the last page of *Diary of a Country Mother*. My word, what can one say? Cynthia Montanaro has given us the story of a splendidly faithful Catholic household....The word ‘contemplative’ is the key to this amazing memoir, and the quiet pace belongs to its essence. Every chapter (or meditation) entails some concrete, softly-textured, domestic narrative, all bespeaking both Tim’s inner man and the household in which the Lord placed him to pass his brief time on this earth. Every episode has its keen point, and the combination of the domestic with the use of hymns,



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Country Mother
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Scripture, the liturgy, Catholic writings, and Cynthia’s own reflections, produce the richness the reader will find here.”

—Thomas Howard, Ph.D., Author of *Hallowed Be This House; Lead Kindly Light; Chance or the Dance; The Dove Descending*

“Cynthia Montanaro is an excellent writer and this is a beautiful book. She demonstrates how the liturgical year provides the framework for embracing the joys and difficulties of family.”—Kimberly Hahn, Co-author with Scott Hahn of *Rome Sweet Home*

Revered occult expert's book revived, as American culture increasingly glamorizes bloodlust and vampires

*All about “paranormal” phenomena—by the theologian
whose definitive study has never been surpassed*

As the rapid spread of New Age beliefs, magic and the glamorization of vampires have led to widespread fascination with the occult, some Catholics have mistakenly met the challenge by promoting a simplistic Protestant view of the subject—i.e., that all “paranormal” phenomena are either fraudulent or of the devil. But as Abbott Alois Wiesinger demonstrated half a century ago, Catholic teaching on the occult is far more complex—and interesting—than that. Now his groundbreaking study is back in print. He explores the entire range of paranormal phenomena, including:

Clairvoyance ~ “Prophetic” dreams and visions
~ Extra-sensory perception (ESP) ~ Ghosts and hauntings ~ Telekinesis (movement of objects)
~ Telepathy (“mind-reading”) ~ Teleacoustic phenomena (e.g., ghostly rapping) ~ Spiritualism (communication with the dead) ~ Fortune-tellers
~ Somnambulists ~ Levitation of objects ~ Materializations ~ Healings ~ Hypnosis ~ Mental suggestion ~ Prophecy ~ Speaking in tongues ~ Transmission of dreams ~ Crystal-gazing

Which of these phenomena are—or may be—genuine? How can they best be explained in the light of Catholic theology? *How might they attest to the existence of God, and of other spiritual realities taught or implied by Catholic doctrine?* Some of Abbott Wiesinger’s fascinating answers:

- ◆ Links between the action of pure spirits and the results of occult phenomena

- Helpful summaries begin chapters
- Glossary of occult/scientific terms

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- ◆ St. Thomas on the higher powers of the soul when it is “partly freed” from the body
- ◆ How the soul’s vestigial powers can, in certain extraordinary circumstances, act directly on matter
- ◆ How dreams or visions may accurately foretell certain events. How this differs from genuine prophecy
- ◆ Powers and characteristics of the human soul after it has become separated from the body in death
- ◆ Why Catholics must admit the possibility of ghosts, but reject the claims of spiritualists to summon the spirits of the dead
- ◆ How the Catholic concept of “spirit,” and Catholic explanations for occult phenomena, differs from pagan
- ◆ False approaches to the spiritual—e.g., yoga and astrology
- ◆ How paranormal gifts differ from true mysticism. Why they should *never* be deliberately cultivated

“Citing numerous well-documented cases, this book is an intriguing attempt to relate modern psychological and psychic research to Catholic theology.” —*The Catholic Answer*

The book that inspired our Pope —and the entire Church, for centuries

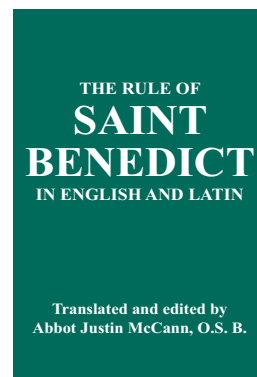
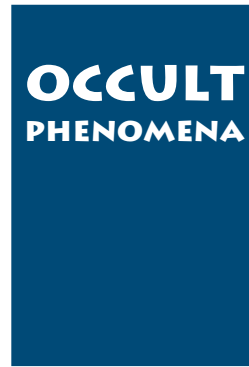
“Remarkable for its discretion and its clarity.”—St. Gregory the Great

It was 594 when Pope St. Gregory the Great—himself a Benedictine—wrote this tribute to the little book which had shaped his life, and stands today as one of the cornerstones of religious life.

By being moderate and flexible in day-to-day concerns, but uncompromising in spiritual matters, St. Benedict’s Rule has endured for 1500 years as a living code, a guiding light that has shown untold numbers of religious men and women the path to holiness. No rectory, no religious house, and no Catholic family, should be without a copy of this seminal work.

Steps on the path to perfection

- ◆ 72 good works that show our love for God
- ◆ 12 steps of humility
- ◆ Why the first stage of humility is prompt obedience
- ◆ The importance of silence
- ◆ How to show proper reverence in the presence of God
- ◆ How the Divine Office ought to be said
- ◆ Prayer—why shorter is better
- ◆ Why the choir is “the world of God”
- ◆ What monks should read
- ◆ What monks may eat and drink
- ◆ Observing Lent
- ◆ Discipline for monks who have fallen into grave sin
- ◆ Whether monks can own anything
- ◆ Why daily manual labor is good for the soul
- ◆ How to care for the elderly, the sick, and the young
- ◆ Why one must accept any assigned task, no matter how hard



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*Latin-English text,
side by side*

Rare is the book that comes with a pope's endorsement

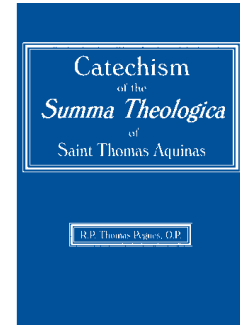
And rarer still in Pope Benedict XV's day. Yet the Holy Father even waxed enthusiastic over this title—perhaps because Benedict beheld, for the first time, a book of St. Thomas' teaching that was arranged for Catholics with no theology or philosophy training. Wrote His Holiness in his Preface:

“It was fitting that the singular wisdom of the Holy Doctor should be made accessible not only to the clergy but to the faithful in general.”

Fr. Pegues takes two classic works—the *Summa* and the catechism—and blends them into one of the most remarkable catechetical titles of the 20th century: The basic questions and tenets of the Faith—and after each question, the answers *from the great St. Thomas himself*. The hundreds of topics include some of the most widely misunderstood or distorted Church teachings today. A tiny sampling:

- ◆ Miracles: what they are, why they happen
- ◆ Guardian angels (they're real, and scriptural—and logical)
- ◆ What Heaven and Hell will be like. Why Purgatory is part of God's plan
- ◆ Why and how devils go about their work of destruction
- ◆ The difference between mortal and venial sin
- ◆ Happiness, and how we can acquire it
- ◆ Grace and the Holy Spirit, and how God works in our souls

- ◆ At the last judgment, will the lives of both saved and damned be revealed to all?
- ◆ What are the cardinal virtues and their counterparts; how is each practiced?
- ◆ Prayer and devotions, and why they are both rational and “necessary”
- ◆ Explained, line by line: the Credo and the Ten Commandments
- ◆ Our Lord: denied by moderns, or twisted into a nice but harmless man. Aquinas plainly outlines who Christ was, explains His incarnation, His knowledge and powers
- ◆ Why can't unbaptized infants enter heaven itself? How does God welcome them?
- ◆ The different kinds of laws that bind us, which ones may be broken, and why
- ◆ How we know God exists and loves each of us
- ◆ Mary: St. Thomas' long-forgotten thoughts



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In all, well over 1,000 simple questions are answered by the master theologian in a book designed, as Pope Benedict XV noted, to “bring many souls to a sound knowledge of Christian doctrine.”

18 time-honored rules of the spiritual life

Which ones are you missing?

No less than biological life, spiritual life has its iron laws, ordained by God. Fr. José Trevino unfolds those laws and shows how to employ them to make spiritual progress.

Fr. Trevino devotes a full chapter to each of the 18 basic rules, and details their corollaries. Some of what you'll learn:

- ◆ Aquinas on the “chief duty of beginners” in spiritual life
- ◆ The single greatest obstacle on everyone's road to perfection. But surmountable for those who know how
- ◆ Common misconceptions about holiness, some dangerous. The proper Catholic understanding
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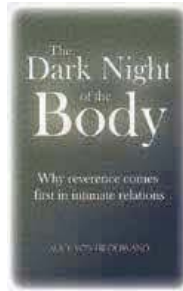
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What are we supposed to “do” with the “theology of the body”?

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From the preface to this important new book by Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, weighty words from a noted Catholic ethicist:

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dedicates some pages to pornography, the total violation of personal intimacy, because it reduces a person to a toy, degrades her to the level of an object.

How did we arrive at this indecent exposure of the person? What are the causes? There has been a three-way separation.

The first, and by far the most grave, is the separation of the person and her sexuality. The second is the alienation of eros from love. The third is a fracture of the two ends of sexuality, procreation and the unifying of loving persons. This fracture may take two contrary paths: sterile erotic pleasure versus artificial procreation without unifying effect.

Dr. von Hildebrand does not limit herself to diagnosis. She offers many suggestions also for therapy. I will limit myself to drawing attention to one of these: it is not Christian compassion to accept the error in which a person may have fallen. This has been a constant in the ethical tradition of the Church, expressed in St. Augustine’s famous affirmation: “interficere errorem, amare errantem.” Hate the sin, love the sinner.

I wish every success to this book, for the reader will reap spiritual benefits from it.

+Carlo Cardinal Caffarra
Archbishop of Bologna

Papal Delegate to the Extraordinary Synod on the Family

I have read with care this book by Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, and have admired, once again, qualities found in her other works: a depth of thought and clarity joined to simple style; a full understanding of substance joined to beauty of exposition.


To assist the reader, I will briefly note the central themes.

Many pages of this book demonstrate the truth that intimacy reveals the mystery of the person. Intimacy is not what civil law calls “privacy” and canon law calls “non-sacramental internal forum.” It is something deeper. Nowhere in the Christian tradition can I find more profound pages about the intimacy of the person than those written by St. Theresa of Avila in the Interior Castle, as she describes the Seventh Mansion....

Sexuality is particularly linked to the concept of personal intimacy. It is a central theme of the book. These are pages to be read attentively. The essential link between sexuality and intimacy is modesty.

Modesty is clearly explained in the book. I offer a few reflections. Modesty is the non-revelation of the person to eyes that would degrade her, as an object to be used. Tragically, the person herself may consent to be degraded. This, it seems to me, is the deep meaning of Jesus’ words concerning adultery in the heart [Mt. 6:27-28]. The eyes of conjugal love can “see the person” without degrading her. Conjugal love is chaste, while unchaste love is a contradiction in terms.

Dr. von Hildebrand’s book offers a true analysis of intimacy and modesty in current Western culture. The author rightly

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