

St. Paul of Tarsus Men's Group

Being Bold! Being Catholic!

2015 Book Reviews

This book review is on "The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth", written by Scott Hahn. I will be donating my copy to the library. It is 163 pages.

This book looks at the gift of the Holy Mass and how the Book of Revelation relates to Heaven and the Mass and ultimately how the Holy Mass is Heaven on Earth!

This book is a very easy read as Scott Hahn, a former Protestant minister, starts the book with his conversion to the Catholic religion by attending our Holy Mass!

He discusses the various gifts or parts of the mass. I liked when he explains why we use the phrase "Lamb of God" and the sacrifice we celebrate at Mass. This lays the ground work for the second part of the book when he relates Heaven and Holy Mass to the Book of Revelation.

In the second part of the book Hahn explains that the Book of Revelation is an apocalyptic book. He also explains the symbolism used in the Book which often seems bizarre and bewildering to many Catholics. He covers a lot of topics, angles, Ark of the Covenant, judgment day etc. in a very clear and easy to understand manner.

It is best summed up: "We go to Heaven when we go to Mass! "

Review submitted by Gary Skarb/SPOT Men's Group

This SPOT library book review covers Life of Christ, written by Archbishop Fulton Sheen. This book can be found in the Spiritual section designated by a white sticker, and is 658 pages.

This book, written by the renowned and beloved Archbishop Fulton Sheen, chronicles the life of Jesus, by merging and analyzing the four Gospels. If you've ever wondered (I have!) what the timeline of Jesus would look like, if the events of the four Gospels were combined, then wonder

no more! Just read this book!

Archbishop Sheen does not just weave the Gospels together. He offers amazing insights, reflective of his immense education and wisdom. Examples of such insights: Jesus was the only person who was ever pre-announced; when the sinful woman broke the jar of oil and poured it on Jesus, she was foreshadowing His being broken, and pouring His blood out for us; Jesus was like the Prodigal son, only a sinless version: He left a 'cushy' life with His Father in Heaven, He 'spent' His 'riches' (goodness, wisdom, mercy, etc.) on sinners, and then returned to a welcoming, loving Father in Heaven!

This was an enjoyable book to read. I have since purchased a copy for myself, to keep as a reference for analyzing the Gospel passages we hear each week, and for scripture study and discussion.

Grow your faith, read a Catholic book!

Review submitted by Steve Hull / SPOT Men's Group

This SPOT library book review covers *Navigating the Interior Life*, written by Dan Burke with Fr. John Bartunek, LC. This book can be found in the Spiritual section designated by a silver label, and is 162 pages.

This is a very modern and practical book on spiritual direction and growing in holiness. Topics covered include the definition of spiritual direction, finding a spiritual director, monitoring spiritual progress and establishing a rule of life.

If you're looking to grow in holiness (and other than Jesus, His Virgin Mother and maybe a few saints, we should ALL be striving to do this), then this is a book to check out and get 'growing'! Recall what Matthew recorded at the end of the 5th chapter of his Gospel: *Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Grow your faith, read a Catholic book!

Review submitted by Steve Hull / SPOT Men's Group

This SPOT library book review covers *The Ignatian Workout*, written by Tim Muldoon. This book can be found in the Prayer section designated by a white label, and is 186 pages.

This book takes a modern look at the Spiritual Exercises written by St. Ignatius of Loyola (in the early 1500's). The author, an accomplished college athlete, promotes the concept of great athletes needing frequent training to stay in peak physical condition (practice! practice! practice!). Likewise, for us to be in peak spiritual condition, we need a disciplined workout / training plan. Part One describes spiritual workouts (reading scripture passages from the Gospels, and

immersing ourselves in each respective event) and prepares the reader for actual spiritual workouts. Part Two details a series of events in Jesus' life, with commentary and questions, to meditate on.

This is a very easy-to-read book. Part One needs to be read sequentially (and probably only once), as it prepares the reader for spiritual workouts. Part Two (the workouts) can be read in any order. The workouts are perfect for Lectio Divina or during Eucharistic Adoration time. And of course such workouts are meant to be repeated often, to spur spiritual growth and fitness.

Grow your faith, read a Catholic book!

Review submitted by Steve Hull / SPOT Men's Group

"The Hand of God" by Dr. Bernard Nathanson If I wanted to know the truth of the founding of our country, I'd seek a conversation with someone like Sam Adams or Thomas Jefferson. If I wanted to know the truth of the Civil War, I'd seek a conversation with Abraham Lincoln or Jefferson Davis. If I wanted to know the truth about abortion, I'd seek a conversation with Dr. Bernard Nathanson. Unfortunately, Dr. Nathanson passed away in February of 2011. However, he did leave us his biography, "The Hand of God." Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a medical doctor, considered himself responsible for approximately 75,000 abortions. He was the founder of and ran the Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health in New York, at the time, the largest abortion clinic in the Western World. He worked with Betty Friedan and others for the legalization of abortion in the United States and gained national attention by becoming one of the founding members of the National Abortion Rights Action League, now known as NARAL Pro-Choice America. And then he became Pro-Life and converted to Catholicism. So how does a Jewish atheist, OB-GYN, who presided over 60,000 abortions, including his own child by his girlfriend at the time, move to become a Pro-Life Catholic? That is only part of the story of "The Hand of God." It is also the story behind the abortion industry and the deceit and politics of the Pro-Choice movement. The story of a lost way, the discovery of truth and the seeking of redemption. The "Hand of God" is an easy but compelling read. It will open up your eyes, your mind and your heart and it will change you. It certainly changed me. This book is now available in the St. Paul of Tarsus Library. Book review submitted by James Kaza, St. Paul of Tarsus Men's Group.

This review covers the book 'The Second Greatest Story Ever Told', written by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

According to the author, the second greatest story ever told centers on church history, especially as it pertains to events in the 20th century, culminating with actions of St. John Paul II. Without giving away the 'secret', consider the following 'dots' which the book connects: Our Blessed Mother, Fatima, Divine Mercy, St. Louis DeMonfort, St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, World War II, Cold War, Russia and Poland.

Like other books by the author (33 Days to Morning Glory, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, others), this is a very easy-to-read book. If you've heard Fr. Gaitley speak (which he does frequently on TV, at conferences, on CDs), you'll recognize that he writes like he speaks, which is very accessible. And although a historical book, it is also an invitation, to hopefully draw the reader into a deeper appreciation and practice of popular devotions, both old and new.

Grow your faith, read a Catholic book!

Review submitted by Steve Hull / SPOT Men's Group

This SPOT library book review covers *The Hand of God*, written by Bernard Nathanson, M.D.

This autobiography is a fascinating and timely book. It details the life and evolving world-view of a renowned abortion-influencer. As a young OB-GYN doctor, he gravitates to the world of abortion. He acknowledges the 'seediness' of it, but streamlines it into an acceptable and lucrative practice. He even becomes a national spokesman for abortion rights, helping to nurture the culture and political climate which led to the legalization of abortion via the ruling on Roe v Wade. But with the advent of ultra-sound, he sees what actually happens in an abortion. This leads to his flip to a pro-life position, advocating for this through a film, 'The Silent Scream', and a book, 'Aborting America'. Along with this abortion viewpoint evolution, the book also chronicles his journey from lukewarm Judaism to Christianity to Catholicism (he eventually enters the Catholic Church after the book was completed). The book is also timely: just as 'The Silent Scream' movie energized a generation of pro-life backers (in the 1980's), the recent release of videos produced by the Center for Medical Progress (see WWW.CENTERFORMEDICALPROGRESS.ORG), showing unsavory abortion-related practices at Planned Parenthood clinics, is re-energizing a new wave of pro-life supporters. Included in these videos is one of a young woman, who once worked in the abortion industry, but upon realization of what was actually happening, has resigned from that job and has joined the pro-life cause. So, yes, conversion and transformation from a pro-abortion mentality is possible; let us keep praying and working for it!

Grow your faith, read a Catholic book!

Review submitted by Steve Hull / SPOT Men's Group

DVD Review

This review is on the DVD "The Nativity Story" by New Line Cinema, Temple Hill Productions. The DVD can be found in the St. Paul of Tarsus library under Adult DVDs. Rated PG; Run time 101 Minutes (1 hour and 41 minutes.)

This movie is basically the first three Joyful Mysteries of the rosary. I think the movie fairly represents Jewish life in the early 1st century in the small village of Nazareth. Life is very difficult. I sometimes wonder why they call them the Joyful Mysteries! Mary is depicted as a very young woman who is betrothed to Joseph under a pre-arranged marriage. Mary is a little unsure of the arrangement. Joseph is a slightly older but established young man in the village. I like this

depiction rather than the “old” Joseph I’m used to seeing in most religious paintings of him. The movie shows how difficult it was for Mary and Joseph in the small village in Nazareth where everyone knows everyone else’s business. This is brought out in the scene when Mary returns from visiting Elizabeth. Joseph is happy to see her until she gets off the cart and she is clearly with child. The expression on his face and the villagers says it all. From a guy’s perspective I like the way the movie shows Joseph as a young man quietly taking care of his family and his contributions to the Holy Family. There is even a little comic relief with the dialog between the three Wise Men. This movie shows the difficulties Mary and Joseph faced starting with the visit by the Angel Gabriel to the birth of Jesus. Through it all with their faith in God and each other they prevailed. Watching this movie is a good way to start the holiday season.

Gary Skarb, SPOT Men’s Group

“The Christmas Train” by David Baldacci is a novel that can be found in our SPOT Library. This highly acclaimed, best-selling author is best know for his thrillers. However, he shows his versatility with this book as an accomplished writer with wonderfully lyrical prose. There is some suspense, some humor, and some thrills as can be expected from this author. However, this unique holiday tale shows how we do get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during the season of miracles. He once again gives us unforgettable characters. This novel is captivating, easy to read and offers us a perspective of a deep emotional truth. This is story of hope and family. It is also a story of a journey of self discovery and rude awakenings, mysterious events, exciting adventures, oddball escapades and holiday (Christmas) magic. My favorite and most inspiring line from the novel is, “With faith there is no fear.” I strongly recommend this entertaining and exhilarating book.

Denny Kubczak, SPOT Men’s Group

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