Dear Friends,

In his now classic book, *Images of Hope*, William Lynch, SJ, writes that there would be no need to focus on hope if there was not so much hopelessness. He also points out that none of us can achieve hope alone, that hope comes from “outside” and is always an act of community, of interdependence, human or divine.

Fifty years later, we struggle mightily with hope, compassion, and peaceful relations in the face of ever-increasing polarization, ongoing racism, climate crisis, and the temptation to simply withdraw from church and society. Depression and hopelessness are on the rise worldwide.

Where is hope found? Lynch tells us that hope occurs between persons and societies when we dare to depend on one another. In my experience, this includes partaking in a community where the wisdom and witness of those around us, those gone before us, and even those coming after us open us up, enrich us, and depend on us in turn. In a sense, is this not also what good reading and writing aims to do?

Living—and reading—must be acts of hope. Our humanity depends on it.

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Hans Christoffersen
Editorial Director
Recollecting America’s Original Sin
A Pilgrimage of Race and Grace
Alison M. Benders

Alison M. Benders
is associate dean at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. She is the author of the award-winning Just Prayer: A Book of Hours for Peacemakers and Justice Seekers, published by Liturgical Press.

978-0-8146-6508-4  Paperback 176 pp., 5½ x 8½, $19.95
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Available April 2022

Recollecting America’s Original Sin journeys into antiblack racism throughout US history through a Christian spirituality lens. The reflections are fashioned as a spiritual pilgrimage that integrates listening, reflecting, and daily living. Anyone desiring to respond faithfully to the justice reckonings now seizing our country travel the race-and-grace journey in these pages.

“In Recollecting America’s Original Sin, Benders invites the reader to travel alongside her in communitas in an admirable quest to ‘live justice authentically and inclusively.’ It is a personal and deeply moving account of pilgrimage as a powerful means of reckoning as America confronts a long history of racial injustice, as embodied prayer, and—importantly—as a way to begin to heal.”

Kathryn R. Barush, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

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Alison M. Benders is associate dean at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. She is the author of the award-winning Just Prayer: A Book of Hours for Peacemakers and Justice Seekers, published by Liturgical Press.
Erin Brigham is the executive director of the Joan and Ralph Lane Center for Catholic Social Thought and the Ignatian Tradition at the University of San Francisco, where she also teaches in the theology and religious studies department.

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Church as Field Hospital
Toward an Ecclesiology of Sanctuary
Erin Brigham

Through an ethnographically driven study of expressions of sanctuary in San Francisco, *Church as Field Hospital* constructs an ecclesiology that expands notions of public engagement and sacred space in Christian theology. Sanctuary practices that create spaces for those who have been marginalized—immigrants, refugees, and unhoused people—reflect the field hospital church Pope Francis has envisioned and enacted. This book investigates sanctuary as a way of being church, one marked by prophetic witness, embodied solidarity, sacramental praxis, and radical hospitality.

“Brigham presents a compelling yet thoroughly practical vision of what the church could and should be in our times. Clarifying the church’s mission as one of radical hospitality, Brigham brings personal experience, cutting edge philosophy, and nuanced theology into dialogue with actual church practices.”

Mary Doak
University of San Diego

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Conclusion: Church as Field Hospital

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Tilling the Church
Theology for an Unfinished Project
Richard Lennan

Tilling the Church is a theology for the pilgrim church. In this book, Richard Lennan shows how the ecclesial community looks toward the fullness of God’s reign but lives within the flux of history, the site of its relationship to the trinitarian God. In this way, God’s grace “tills” the church, constantly refreshing the tradition of faith and prompting the discipleship that embodies the gospel. Tilling the Church explores the possibilities for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace. Fruitful engagement with grace requires the church’s conversion, the ongoing formation of a community whose words and actions reflect the hope that grace engenders.

“Like a patient and experienced farmer, Lennan teaches us where, when, and how to plant the seeds of grace in the church-field, a task destined to remain an ‘unfinished project’ until the eschaton.”
Peter C. Phan
Georgetown University

“This stimulating book is a welcome reminder of the need for constant care in safeguarding the church’s full flourishing.”
Ormond Rush
Australian Catholic University

“Richard Lennan employs the ‘homely’ agricultural metaphor ‘tilling’ to help us recognize how God’s gift of Grace works to ‘till,’ ‘to cultivate’ us as church—opens us pilgrim people not only to our past, but to a future of healing, creating, and community in history and coaxes us to care for the earth and for all God’s human creatures—believers or not.”
M. Shawn Copeland
Professor Emerita, Boston College

“This book is essential reading for all who care about the reform and the future of the Catholic church in the twenty-first century.”
Dermot A. Lane, Dublin City University

978-0-8146-6743-9
Paperback 288 pp., 6 x 9, $29.95
Available April 2022

Richard Lennan is a priest of the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (Australia) and professor of systematic theology in the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.
The Sense of the Faith in History
Its Sources, Reception, and Theology
John J. Burkhard, OFM Conv

While taught by Vatican II, the “sense of the faith” (sensus fidei) has had little official impact in the Catholic Church. What would the church look like if it took this conciliar teaching to heart? In an effort to address this neglect, this book locates the historical roots of the teaching and its emergence at Vatican II. It attempts to better understand the “sense of the faith” in the light of other fundamental teachings of the council and challenges the hierarchical church to invite all the faithful to rightfully participate in the prophetic ministry of the whole church, closely allied with Pope Francis’s call for a more “synodal Church.”

For anyone wanting to understand Pope Francis’s vision of ‘a synodal church . . . a church that listens,’ this book is a sure guide.”
Ormond Rush, Australian Catholic University

“This is an immensely important resource for understanding this history and identifying unresolved issues.”
Bradford E. Hinze, Fordham University

“Almost six decades since the close of the council, our church is still struggling to fully embrace the council’s teaching that all the baptized faithful receive and penetrate the gift of God’s Word and so contribute in crucial ways to the life and mission of the church. Burkhard’s book is certain to help this central teaching gain wider acceptance and deeper appreciation in the church today.”
Richard R. Gaillardetz, Boston College

John J. Burkhard, OFM Conv, PhD, taught systematics at the former Washington Theological Union; at Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota; and in Ghana, West Africa. In 2004 he published Apostolicity Then and Now: An Ecumenical Church in a Postmodern World with Liturgical Press. He writes primarily on ecclesiology and continues to translate theological works from French and German.
Dust in the Blood
A Theology of Life with Depression
Jessica Coblentz

*Dust in the Blood* considers the harrowing realities of life with depression from a Christian theological perspective. In conversation with popular Christian theologies of depression that justify why this suffering exists and prescribe how people ought to relate to it, Coblentz offers another Christian approach to this condition: she reflects on depression as a wilderness experience.

Weaving first-person narratives of depression, contemporary theologies of suffering, and ancient biblical tales of the wilderness, especially the story of Hagar, Coblentz argues for and contributes to an expansion of Christian ideas about what depression is, how God relates to it, and how Christians should understand and respond to depression in turn.

“Even as most of the wilderness stories lack resolution, Coblentz points to ways in which God shows up in those desolate spaces. A compelling and powerful addition to theological conversations about those who suffer from depression and all of us who love them.”

Deanna A. Thompson, St. Olaf College

“This is the book I have been waiting for. With insight and sensitivity, Jessica Coblentz offers a theological field guide for ministers and communities hoping to faithfully accompany those stumbling through the ‘unhomelike’ landscapes of depression.”

Rev. David Finnegan-Hosey, author of *Christ on the Psych Ward* and *Grace is a Pre-Existing Condition: Faith, Systems, and Mental Healthcare*
New Faces, New Possibilities

Cultural Diversity and Structural Change in Institutes of Women Religious

Edited by Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ, and Thu T. Do, LHC

Religious sisters have created educational and healthcare systems over the past two hundred years that have transformed the Catholic community in the United States. Through their ministry, sisters have served waves of immigrants and those pushed to the margins. The growing cultural diversity of newer sisters and the diminishing number of older sisters, therefore, is both a challenge and a creative moment to be critically examined.

This book examines these changes in culture and ethnicity among sisters, the structural impact of diminishing numbers, and the creative response to this new reality for religious life in the United States. In it, sisters from a variety of generations, cultures, and institutes join with CARA researchers to examine and reflect on CARA’s recent research findings and their impact on the life and ministry of sisters today.

“This book offers a comprehensive and insightful contribution to understanding transformations experienced in the institutes of consecrated life in the United States and globally. Regardless of the challenges facing religious life today, this book affirms the core tenet of consecrated women’s fidelity to God and pragmatic listening to contemporary challenges as an opportunity to learn and respond to new realities with new possibilities, hope, wisdom, and grace.”

Sister Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Associate Vice President of Programs Operations and Head Catholic Sisters Initiative at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God

An Emerging Chapter for Religious Life
Science, Theology, and Mission

Laurie Brink, OP

Building on the work of Teilhard de Chardin, the New Cosmology integrates scientific facts and theories, including discoveries about the expanding universe and evolution, and proposes that creation is developing into greater complexity. But how are we to understand concepts like “original sin” and “redemption” if creation isn’t complete and humanity is still in process? How is a Catholic sister to understand her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in light of a cosmology in which the need for redemption and the role of Jesus are significantly redefined?

The Heavens Are Telling the Glory of God probes these questions and offers possible answers. Beginning with the experiences of women religious and their encounter with the New Cosmology or Universe Story, this book seeks to mediate among the various perspectives and proposes how informed and reflective engagement with science, tradition, and theology can bridge the generational divides and foster a spirituality that is both emergent and incarnational.

“In this readable and intellectually exciting synthesis of science and Christian faith, Laurie Brink shows how communities of religious women may fruitfully integrate the new scientific cosmic story into their spiritual lives.”

John Haught, Georgetown University

“In Laurie Brink’s new book brings the heart of religious life into deep dialogue with the sciences in a scholarly and thoughtful way. By weaving together new life in God with new life in the universe, we can begin to appreciate the value of the Gospels with new depth and breadth.”

Ilia Delio, OSF, Villanova University
Pheme Perkins, the Joseph Professor of Catholic Spirituality at Boston College, is the author of over twenty-five books on the New Testament and early Christianity. 

Eloise Rosenblatt is a Sister of Mercy, a theologian, and an attorney in private practice in family law in California. 

Patricia McDonald, a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, is currently academic program director and teacher of New Testament at the Pontifical Beda College, Rome, where she has been since 2012.

Reading 1 Peter through the lens of feminist and diaspora studies keeps front and center the bodily, psychological, and social suffering experienced by those without stable support of family or homeland, whether they were economic migrants or descendants of those enslaved by Roman armies.

The polemical, accusatory genre of Second Peter, like Jude, originates in Roman judicial rhetoric. Second Peter dramatizes an ecclesial crisis whose “solution” was the eventual imposition of a magisterium to silence dissent. Citations to Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s *A Woman’s Bible* enliven the commentary.

Brief, combative, and assuming a familiarity with a literary culture that most twenty-first-century readers do not have, the Letter of Jude would be an obvious candidate for being the most neglected book of the New Testament. As a model for a pastoral strategy, it can be recommended only with great reservations: almost everyone will find in it something problematic, if not offensive. This letter provides a salutary reminder that the entire canon originated in a world that is radically unfamiliar to us.

For more WISDOM COMMENTARY see pages 20-21.

Volume on *Judith* coming Fall 2022.
From the Depths of the Heart

Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek

Abraham Terian

St. Gregory of Narek (ca. 945–1003), Armenian mystic poet and theologian, was named Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis on April 12, 2015. Not so well known in the West, the saint holds a distinctive place in the Armenian Church by virtue of his prayer book and hymnic odes—among other works. His writings are equally prized as literary masterpieces, with the prayer book as the *magnum opus*.

With this meticulous translation of the prayers, St. Gregory of Narek enters another millennium of wonderment, now in a wider circle. The prayers resound from their author’s heart—albeit in a different language, rendered by a renowned translator of early Armenian texts and a theologian.

“We are deeply indebted to Abraham Terian for this clear, elegant, and beautiful translation of the prayers, which demonstrates why St. Gregory has at last been declared a doctor of the universal church.”

Robin Darling-Young
The Catholic University of America

978-0-8146-8464-1
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Abraham Terian is professor emeritus of Armenian theology and patristics at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York. A recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities award and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, he has extensive publications in the fields of Hellenistic, early Christian, and Armenian religious literature.

See page 18 for a special set offer on all St. Gregory of Narek volumes!
Lively Oracles of God
Perspectives on the Bible and Liturgy
An Alcuin Guide

Gordon Jeanes and Bridget Nichols

This book reexamines what we often take for granted: how Scripture is presented to worshipers; how it is heard, especially by those with little experience of the life of the church; Scripture's role in mediating the great narratives of incarnation and redemption at the high points of the year; where Scripture meets people in ritual transition; how the Bible itself provides the language of much public prayer. Contributors also consider how the relationship between Scripture and liturgy is tested by new priorities—the climate crisis, the inclusion and protection of children, the recognition and honoring of those who find themselves on the margins of the church, and the significance of gender and identity in all areas of the church's life.

“The main focus of these essays is to make sense of the ways in which the dynamic interplay between the biblical text, the ritual act and contemporary contexts drives liturgical change and creates meaning. Liturgical ministers, as well as students and scholars, will be inspired by this tantalizing array of ideas and approaches.”
Juliette J. Day, University of Helsinki

“‘Biblical’ worship is a term used by some writers to claim superiority for their worship tradition over so-called ‘liturgical’ worship. This rich collection of essays demonstrates that ‘liturgical’ worship is drenched in Scripture to its core and is deeply evangelical in all senses of this word. This book is a joy to read.”
Bryan D. Spinks, Yale University
Introduction to Eastern Christian Liturgies

Stefanos Alexopoulos and Maxwell E. Johnson

In Introduction to Eastern Christian Liturgies, renowned liturgical scholars Stefanos Alexopoulos and Maxwell E. Johnson fulfill the need for a new, comprehensive, and straightforward survey of the liturgical life of the Eastern Christian Churches within the seven distinct liturgical Eastern rites still in existence today: Armenian, Byzantine, Coptic, Ethiopic, East Syrian, West Syrian, and Maronite. This topical overview covers baptism, chrismation, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing, marriage, holy orders, burial, Liturgy of the Hours, the liturgical year, liturgical ethos and spirituality, and offers a brief yet comprehensive bibliography for further study. This book will be of special interest to masters-level students in liturgy and theology, pastoral ministers seeking an introduction to the liturgies of the Christian East, and all who seek to increase their knowledge of the liturgical riches of the Christian East.

“This book could not be more relevant or necessary. Introduction to Eastern Christian Liturgies comes at a time when many foundational Christian traditions are threatened with extinction in the very lands of their origin. It deserves deep study and serious meditation.”
Joseph P. Amar, PhD, University of Notre Dame

“This book will become the standard reference for anyone interested in the rites of the Christian East, whether scholars specializing in one of its many traditions or curious students and practitioners looking for an accessible introduction to a different ethos and form of spirituality.”
Daniel Galadza, University of Toronto

Stefanos Alexopoulos
Maxwell E. Johnson

978-0-8146-6355-4
Paperback, 472 pp., 6 x 9, $59.95
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“Here in one concise, eloquently crafted volume, is the presentation of Eastern Christian liturgies in their full panoply of splendor. A monumental achievement, opening new frontiers for study and knowledge.”
Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Brown University
Milton T. Walsh holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. For many years, he taught theology at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He is the author of several books, including Second Friends: C. S. Lewis and Ronald Knox in Conversation, In Memory of Me: A Meditation on the Roman Canon, and Witness of the Saints: Patristic Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours.

The Life of Jesus Christ

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Milton T. Walsh holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. For many years, he taught theology at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He is the author of several books, including Second Friends: C. S. Lewis and Ronald Knox in Conversation, In Memory of Me: A Meditation on the Roman Canon, and Witness of the Saints: Patristic Readings in the Liturgy of the Hours.
Moral Reflections on the Book of Job
Volume 6
Books 28–35
Gregory the Great
Translated by Brian Kerns, OCSO
Introduction by Mark DelCogliano

The Moral Reflections on the Book of Job were first given to the monks who accompanied Gregory the Great to the embassy in Constantinople. This sixth volume, containing books 28 through 35, provides commentary on five chapters of Job, from 38:1 through 42:17. The present volume contains the Lord’s appearing to Job out of the whirlwind, the Lord’s two lengthy speeches to Job and Job’s responses, and, finally, the Lord’s rebuke to Job’s friends and restoration of Job’s fortunes. Finally, Gregory speaks of his intention in writing this long work and requests that his readers grant him their prayers and tears. Includes comprehensive indexes for volumes 1-6.
Thousands and Thousands of Lovers
Sense of Community among the Nuns of Helfta
Anna Harrison

"Exploring the sisters' loving relationships with one another, with clergy and laity, with the dead in purgatory and the saints in heaven, Harrison shows that mysticism is not just a pursuit for the lonely soul in its solitude. It can be—and at Helfta it is—the most profoundly social of all human activities."

Barbara Newman, Northwestern University

"Brimming with fascinating observations about life at Helfta, Thousands and Thousands of Lovers is a learned and delightful book that will be warmly welcomed by scholars and students concerned with questions relating to monastic community, spirituality, authorship, and gender."

Fiona Griffiths, Stanford University

Anna Harrison is professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University, where she teaches courses in the history of Christian late antiquity and the Middle Ages.
The Collected Works
Saint Rafael Arnaiz,
Translated by Catherine Addington, Edited and introduced by Sr. María Gonzalo-García, OCSO

Despite the shortness of his life, Saint Rafael Arnaiz developed a solid spirituality, which in its simplicity is a straight path to holiness. He has been compared to mystics like Teresa of Ávila and John of the Cross, whose writings inspired him, and his theology of the cross, born from his prayer, places him in continuity with the best of the monastic tradition. In his letters and journals, compiled in this volume, his heart speaks of the joys and struggles of striving to live for God alone.

“At last, an accessible English translation of the works of St. Rafael Arnaiz that captures both the appeal and the depth of his life and spirituality! Addington’s fine translation opens the riches of St. Rafael’s writings to new readers who will certainly benefit from his simple zeal and the profound wisdom he learned from the Cross.”

Mark O’Keefe, OSB
Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

“There are so many holy heroes waiting for us to stumble upon them, waiting with words that will resonate in our souls and lead us to a closer spiritual union with God. Saint Rafael Arnaiz is a wonderful example of this and through her translation of his collected works, Catherine Addington has made it so for both us and Saint Rafael the wait is over.”

Tommy Tighe, author of Saint Dymphna’s Playbook

Catherine Addington, PhD, is a translator and scholar of Catholic writing in the Spanish-speaking world. She earned her doctorate in Spanish literature and translation from the University of Virginia in 2021.

Sr. María Gonzalo-García, OCSO, is the novice director at the Trappist-Cistercian monastery of Our Lady of the Angels (Crozet, Virginia). She is originally from Madrid, Spain, where she completed degrees in social work and theology.

“St. Rafael is a brother to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, living a small, hidden life that was burning with love for God. I will turn to his writings for strength in my own spiritual life, and I’ll read excerpts to my children, so that they can see what it means to turn every crumb and corner of our lives over to God, all for love.”

Leah Libresco Sargeant, author of Building the Benedict Option
The Festal Works of St. Gregory of Narek
Annotated Translation of the Odes, Litanies, and Encomia
Abraham Terian
“Terian’s work is truly massive, both in the sheer volume of poetry he has made available to us, and in his profuse, erudite commentary that escorts the reader into the remote faith-world of a singular, medieval mystic from a Christian culture little known to most in the West.”
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The Sacred Treasures of St. Gregory of Narek
Michael Papazian
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