



VERITAS

Catholic Books and Gifts

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Veritas Newsletter – Issue No. 44



June 2009

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Store Hours

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Guadalupe

Books by our present Holy Father, Benedict XVI, are always challenging. In an article about “Christ, the Redeemer of Mankind, he is showing how Christianity was able to relate to the religions of antiquity in its forms of worship. Christianity also established a continuity with regard to places of worship.

“The most impressive example of such continuity within change, Joseph Ratzinger writes, “is the picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The veneration of the Tilma began at the place where once had stood a distinguished image of ‘the venerable mother lady Snake’, an important native goddess. It is significant, though, that she wears no mask and that her face is visible. This indicates that she is not a goddess, but rather a mother of mercy, since the Indian gods wore masks. This idea is continued and developed by the symbolism of the sun, the moon and the stars. She is greater than the native gods because she covers the sun, yet does not extinguish it. The woman is more powerful than the highest pagan deity, the sun god. She is more powerful than the moon, because she stands upon it, but does not trample it.

In the figures and symbols with which she appears, the entire wealth of the previous religions is taken up and unified around a new center, which descends from new heights. Thus Our Lady of Guadalupe is in many respects an image of the relationship between Christianity and the religions of the world. It is also an image of the relationship of the truth of Jesus Christ to the truths of those religions: the truth does not destroy: it purifies and unites.

The Truth

The Christian faith does not allow religion to degenerate into habit or custom. Rather, it challenges us to live according to the claims of the truth. That is why a Christian can never say simply: “Everyone should just live in the religion that historical circumstances have allotted to him, since all of them are paths to

salvation, each in its own way.” This attitude in fact reduces religion to a mere habit and closes it off from the truth. Most important, religion, misunderstood in this way does not bring people together but instead isolates them in their respective traditions concerning the essential questions of humanity.

The spiritual awakening to the Christian faith became possible because there were men in Israel whose hearts were searching, who were not satisfied with the current customs and were watching for something greater. The Gentile Church became possible because both in the Mediterranean region and in those areas of the Near and Middle East there were expectant people who did not content themselves with the status quo, but who were looking for the star that would show them the way to the true Savior of the world.

Jesus Christ

Anyone who speaks about Jesus Christ as the One who brings salvation to all, and thus for all times, cannot remain silent about the fact that henceforth Christ is always present in history, and does not remain in the past. This Christological presence is called Church. Church is based on the fact that Christ perpetually keeps his promise: “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This “being with you” occurs in such a way that he perpetually creates a body for himself, in which he constantly gathers people, in whom his bodily existence continues. Indeed, he is not only the Christ yesterday, but he is Christ today and forever. If he is one, then his body, in turn, can only be one, despite the fragmentation that is empirically evident. This unity cannot be relegated to utopia, or to the end times: it must be present in a bodily manner in history.

Kyrios, Lord

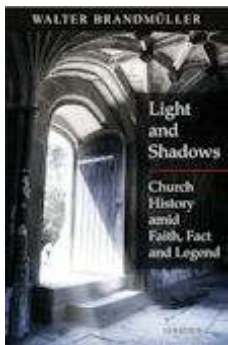
According to the synoptic account Jesus at first asked the disciples who “men” said that he was. Some said that he was John the Baptist, others Elijah, others Jeremias or one of the prophets. “Men” today think no differently about Jesus than they did then. Karl Jaspers views Jesus alongside Socrates, Buddha and Confucius. Today they try to uncover an historical Jesus, a moralist, an individualist, who becomes a revolutionary, a freedom fighter. For the New Age, Jesus is acquiring new relevance today. How do these images of Jesus come about?

They are made up of two components. One component analyses the Gospel texts using the methods of historical criticism. This criticism assumes that history is always uniform, and that nothing can take place in history except what is known to us from nature and from human activity. Accordingly, it is not possible for a man really to be God and to perform deeds which require divine power, as Jesus did. What is not possible, then, cannot have happened.

The other component comes from pushing Jesus into the past: Jesus does not speak to us; has nothing to say to us. He is representing an age which is not ours. So all the passages that would not fit that frame of mind are ignored or explained away.

The underlying problem in the search for Jesus, the real Jesus, is the God issue, more precisely, the absence of God in our world. In all earnestness we must ask ourselves the question again: is God capable of acting in the world, and of bringing us into a relationship with himself?

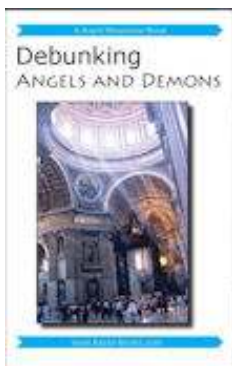
From The Shelves



Light and Shadows - Church History by Walter Brandmüller. \$18.95.

The author is the president of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, and professor of history in a German University. The book does not cover Church history by century or by country. Instead it tackles some moments and questions of Church history, the ones that are more misunderstood today. Naturally, the inquisition is one such topic, but also the crusades.

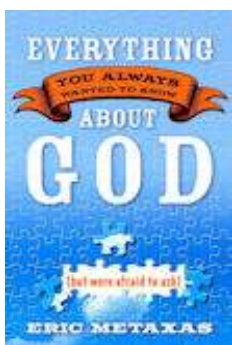
Unexpectedly, however, you find a chapter on the “miracle of the Council of Trent”, several other chapters on moments of crisis within the Church in some countries and how a marvelous rebirth followed them. There is a study of the history of Church Councils: is the Vatican Council II a departure from Faith tradition? A marvelous chapter analyses Baroque art and its relevance for worship. Reading the book brings to our attention how history teaches.



Debunking Angels and Demons - A Rapid Response Book. \$11.95.

The book and the film by the same title are of interest right now. Perhaps many have gone, or may go, to see the film. Officially the film is described as fiction. In fact, there are many references in the film to people, events and places, which are not fictitious, and are introduced as hostile to the Church or victims of church intrigues.

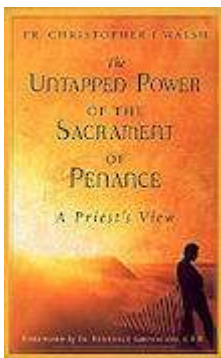
This booklet lists each instance in which history has been either ignored or knowingly altered in the film, 80 pages of them. What could be the motive for such a plot? How can the damage done to the image of the Church be contained without creating additional publicity for such an offensive work? If you see the film, at least be informed.



Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God by Eric Metaxas. \$20.99

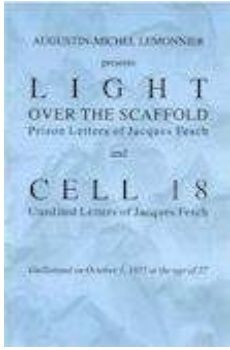
In question and answer form, it deals with angels and demons,, it asks if God hates gays and women, why anybody needs religion, if hell really exists, why religious people are such fanatics. The most striking question, why does a loving God allow suffering?

It is the classic question, and there is no satisfactory answer applicable to all instances. We know that God is good; we know we have free will; we know there is evil. We know that God draws good, even out of suffering. We know that overcoming evil is our most rewarding achievement.



The Untapped Power of the Sacrament of Penance - A Priest's View by Fr. Christopher J. Walsh

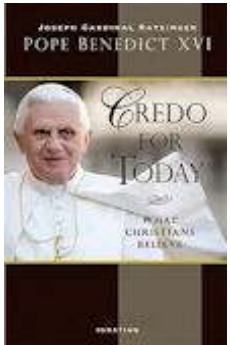
The book is timely if we reflect that until the 1960's the sacrament was so important. Afterwards, almost all of a sudden, it dropped out of Catholic life. Why? Besides reviewing some of the reasons for the change, the book deals with the continuous importance of the sacrament, today more than ever: the sacrament of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. Penitents need to surrender to God, admit their sins, ask for forgiveness and be reconciled. It may not be necessary to go to confession every few weeks, but once a year, says the author, does not do much good.



Light Over the Scaffold - Prison Letters of Jacques Fesch and Cell 18. \$16.95.

This is a book without equal. It is the story of a thief who killed a policeman in the attempt to evade capture. He spends three years in isolation at a jail in Paris, and is then condemned to be decapitated. His letters are a window on the dark night that he crosses, and on his spiritual ascent.

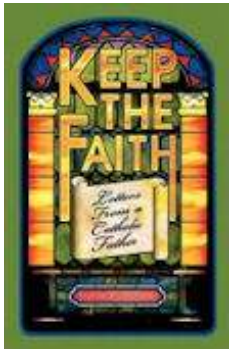
In the letters he tells of the experience of having Christ living in him, of living through marvelous hours. It is moving to see the power of Christ at work. We receive the same gifts, and yet we seem to remain so indifferent, compared to the criminal.



Credo for Today by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. \$28.95.

There are sixteen chapters in the book, one for each statement of the Creed. The explanations face the difficulties, or the objections, that are encountered today. "We believe in God" for instance, answers the question: what is the use? If it makes no difference, why believe? This same first chapter addresses also issues related to the theory of evolution.

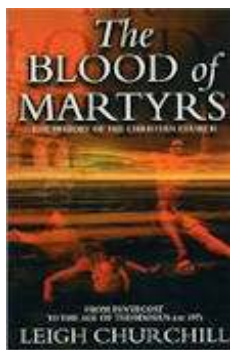
"The resurrection of the body and life everlasting" discusses the survival of the soul together with the resurrection of the body: is there a soul? Is the soul ever mentioned in the Bible? This book is the Catechism in homiletic form, as brilliant as usual when the Pope writes.



Keep the Faith - Letters from a Catholic Father. \$15.95.

A father to his young family: "to have a Catholic identity, because of birth, baptism, customs and life experience is not a bad thing. A philosophy of life is based on self identity. It tries to tie together everything around us, all of life and death, in order to make sense of it all. A Catholic identity comes in all shapes and sizes, active or contemplative, intellectual, poetic and cultural.

To change the Catholic identity is a tall order; it means to acquire a new philosophy of life: which one: protestant, Buddhist, secular...?

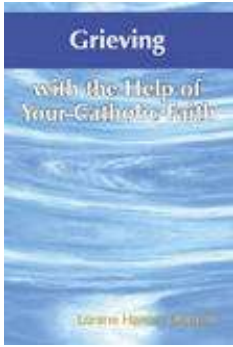


Blood of Martyrs by Paul Thigpen. \$11.95.

Together with many precise reports of the suffering of martyrs, from the first to the 20th century, the book offers compelling reflections from the Scriptures:

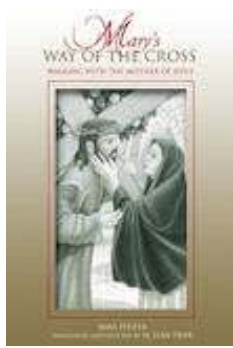
"unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies", it will bear no fruit
"Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps;
" in those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness..." He was beheaded;
"and Jesus said to them, the cup that I drink, you will drink";
"they dragged some of the brethren before the city authorities crying: these men who have

turned the world upside down, have come here also..."
"indeed the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God";
"long live Christ the King!" proclaimed the Mexican victims;
"in persecution the church begins and ends", (John Cardinal Newman).



Grieving, with the Help of Your Catholic Faith. \$6.95.

Grieving is to be torn apart. It takes months for the muscles to regenerate, it may take a year or longer for a person’s energy level to return to normal. There is shock, anger, sadness before acceptance. Prayer when grieving may be as simple as “Lord, help me”, or a lament as from Psalm 102: “Hear my prayer, Lord, let my cry come to thee. Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline thy ear to me, answer me speedily in the day when I call”. Prayer helps. Then there are questions that need to be answered, for which the Catholic faith does help. The final question: what should I do now?

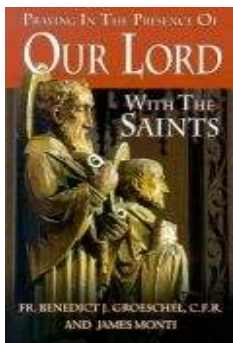


Mary’s Way of the Cross. \$7.50

How was Mary’s Way of the Cross? Walking with the Mother of Jesus, conversing with her, do we detract from Christ’s redemptive suffering?

Mary does not take Christ’s place, she takes our place! She answers the call of Jesus: “if any want to become my followers, let them take up their cross and follow me.” (Mt. 8:34)

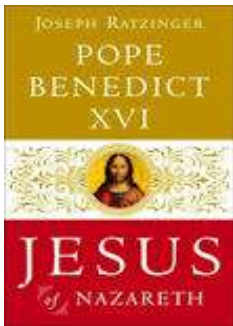
Moreover, Mary loves Christ totally. Her love urged her to suffer the way of the cross with her son. Those who walk the Stations of the cross with Mary will grow in the love of Christ.



Praying In The Presence of Our Lord With the Saints. \$9.95.

This is another of Fr. Groeschel’s guides. The Saints whose prayers he has chosen are legion. some better known, like St. Louis Marie de Montfort, others somewhat obscure, like St. Benedict Labre or St. Vincent Pallotti.

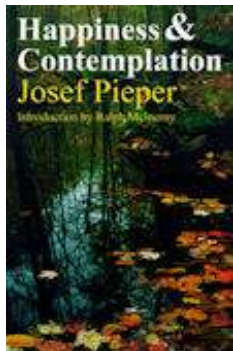
The choice of prayers is focused on preparation for Mass and Holy Communion, on thanksgiving after Communion and on visits to the Blessed Sacrament. There are appendices, one of which lists the indulgences for each prayer.



Jesus of Nazareth, by Pope Benedict XVI. Paper. \$18.95

The best of the best. As we read about Jesus, we learn also about all the misconceptions spread about today.

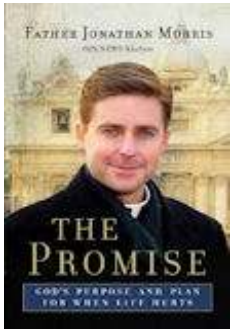
Only a Pastor could have written this book.



Happiness and Contemplation. Josef Pieper \$14.50.

The message of the book: the ultimate of human happiness is to be found in contemplation. Happiness means attaining the “whole good”, as distinguished from “Joy” which is essentially secondary. Contemplation is knowledge accompanied by amazement. Only one who does not know the “whole” can be amazed. Happiness is founded on sorrow...

As usual, Josef Pieper challenges us: this reading leads at the same time to discovery and to amazement. This is an experience which we deserve, at least once in a while.



The Promise... When Life Hurts. \$17.95

Another book on suffering, with a difference. The book answers many questions: do I trust in God, do I think faith in God is reasonable, am I able to explain faith to others, does my perception of God change in difficult moments, how can I apply the message of Christ's suffering to my own life? The final questions: what is the connection between evil and freedom; have I ever misused my freedom, becoming the cause of evil for someone else? The final chapters deal with earthquakes and tsunamis (is God responsible?), and moral evil (the most wicked kind of evil!).



I Am A Helper. DVD. \$14.95

Songs that teach, songs that praise, with the DONUT MAN (Rob Evans), music JUST FOR KIDS. He has a daily program just for kids, to 10 years of age, on EWTN. He has an extensive number of DVD's by now. And he will be in Halifax in October this year to help celebrate the 15th anniversary of Veritas through an afternoon with young people.

What To Think About The Church

For some today the Church appears like a stagnant club, a compendium of all human offenses, defiled by scandals, humiliated by a history of witch hunts and persecution of heretics. It seems to have become an obstacle rather than a help in accepting the Faith. Why belong to it?

Benedict XVI explains why he remains in the Church, quoting from some Fathers, who compare the Church to the moon. Today voyagers have been on the moon, which has been studied also by moon probes. They discovered that the moon is only stone, desert, sand mountains.

But the moon is also something else. It is light, light not in itself, but from another source and to another purpose. It transmits light at night to us on earth; not its own light, but the light of the sun.

Is not the moon the very image of the Church? Someone who extracts samples from the Church, as if with a moon probe, would discover only desert, sand, stone. However, these are not the essential things about her. The decisive thing is that she, although only sand and mud from herself, is still light that comes from the Lord. The Lord is truly and properly hers to transmit. She does not count. What counts about her is the light of the Lord which is not available without her. It is only through the Church that we receive the Lord.

Some Thoughts On The Eucharist

The Apostle John begins the description of the Last Supper with the statement: "after having loved his own who were in the world. Jesus loved them to the end." To the end: meaning to the farthest possible limits.

It started when Jesus pronounced those words in the synagogue in Cafarnaum: "I am the living bread, descended from heaven. If one eats of this bread, he will live eternally. And the bread which I give is my flesh for the life of the world".

Among the listeners many began to argue among themselves: "How can he give his flesh to us to eat?" Jesus does not back down from his statement. He makes it even more explicit, introducing it with those words: "in truth, in truth I tell you: if you do not eat the flesh of the son of man, and do not drink his blood, you will not

have life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will resurrect him in the last day. Because my flesh is true food, and my blood real drink...whoever eats this bread will live eternally."

The listeners, even those who usually follow Jesus, cannot take it! This language is hard; who can understand it? Jesus gets back to them: "does this message scandalize you?" from then on many disciples walked out and stopped following him.

It is then that Jesus says to the twelve: "perhaps you want to walk out too?" It is Peter who replies: "Lord, to whom shall we go. You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have known that you are the holy one of God."

Then it happened at the last supper. They were all sitting down and they were having their meal, when Jesus took the bread, blessed it and broke it, saying: "take it, this is my body". He then took the chalice, gave thanks and passed it around: they all drank from it. Jesus said to them: "this is my blood, of the new testament, which is poured out for many". The promise has been accomplished.

For many, this is a monstrous superstition, a repugnant belief: to eat Jesus' body, to drink his blood. In the numerous churches of Satan which are springing up everywhere, consecrated hosts are being debased in sexual orgies.

For Catholics the Eucharist is the heart of the Church. "It is not the Church that makes the Eucharist, it is the Eucharist that makes the Church." All the sacraments, as well as all ecclesial ministries and apostolic works, are tied up with the Eucharist (Vatican Council II). It is the faith in the presence of the risen Lord who offers his own life to all.

No religion has ever offered any of its teachings with such a disturbing meaning. With the Eucharist even the problem of death disappears: eternal life is ours if we eat his flesh, drink his blood. Vatican Council II states that the Eucharist is the summit of evangelization, of the good news. One cannot imagine further.

St. Paul, writes to the Corinthians about the Eucharist: "Whenever you eat of this bread and drink from this chalice in an unworthy manner, you become guilty of profaning the body and the blood of the Lord. Let each one examine his conscience... Unworthy receivers eat and drink judgment upon themselves." Pope John Paul II wrote: This call by the apostle indicates at least indirectly the close tie between the Eucharist and Penance. The Eucharist and Penance thus become two closely connected dimensions of authentic Christian life.

Before Communion we borrow the words of the Roman official: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul will be healed."

Halifax, and Veritas, Prepare for Tall Ships

Ten of thousands of people are expected to descend on the port's historic waterfront next month, as some fifty vessels sail into the harbour for the Tall Ships Festival. Vessels from as far away as Denmark and Uruguay will arrive. The event is held every few years. The next one is scheduled for 2012.

Organizers estimate the event will attract some 800,000 visitors to the city. The tall ships will stay in Halifax from July 16 to July 20.

Now, you can understand how interested Veritas volunteers are in this event. The bookstore is located on a prominent spot along the main street of the city. It is a unique bookstore, carrying books with a message hardly heard today. The opportunity for a greater visibility during the festival must not be missed.

So, join the crowds of visitors who will discover the store, see the outside exhibit and the indoor decorations that will mark the event and the bookstore message. Yes, come and visit Veritas during the festival. Feel proud of the Faith being proclaimed and of the volunteers who stand behind it. See you then.

Coming Events

Stuebenville Atlantic - July 31- August 2

1000 young people are expected for a weekend to revive the enthusiasm for their faith. Veritas will be there, in Antigonish, with the best of the books.

15th Anniversary of VERITAS

The Anniversary will fall on October 4. It was 1994 when the store opened in the Brewery Market, Lower Water Street. It has grown since then, and many other possibilities are opening to it, through the work of so many volunteers during the years. How will we mark the anniversary? Please send your suggestions.

Marian Gathering: Walking with Mary

Weekend of October 16 St. Agnes Auditorium. This event returns to Halifax after some time. It features Fr. Don Calloway, a convert, and Fr. Patrick O'Neill, very active Life advocate. Veritas will be there as well.

Great News

Soon you will be able to read the Newsletter on our Website: www.veritasbooks.ca. It happens again through the good will and skill of volunteer Dawn Filipps.

Many Thanks...

On the occasion of the Weekend of Grace, April 25, at the Lord Nelson Hotel, the winners were drawn for some items in the lottery:

O.L of Pompei image: V. Alward.

Statue of Our Lady: Joanne Nelson

Bible Medallions: Dolores Moran

To Our Non-Catholic Friends

Since the closing of the Anglican Bookstore some of you have chosen to shop at Veritas. Your patronage is deeply appreciated, and everything possible will be done to meet your needs. We see you as God's Providence coming to our help. Thank you.

Mail Orders

Patrons may request that orders be mailed home to them. The only additional cost is the cost of postage. Handling is done free by volunteers. Payment can be made by credit card or by cheque when the invoice arrives.

Video and DVD Rentals

\$2.00 For Seven Days

Selection includes Film Classics – Children's Titles - Lives of the Saints – Catechisms

Children are invited to watch FREE movies while you browse.