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Mysticism in Today's World
JOHN FARRELLY

Interreligious Dialogue
WAYNE TEASDALE

Women of Mark's Gospel
MITZI MINOR

Edith Stein
JOHN SULLIVAN



**SPIRITUALITY
TODAY**

Spirituality Today

The author shows that in this rub-a-shoulder world, room must be made for prayer, for it is the way to our greatest need, intimacy. This is a book for all Christians, but especially those whose spirituality is sacrament-based. It is for the person wanting to know about prayer and the experienced director, for it is encouraging and can serve as a compendium of what happens at the various levels of prayer.

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GEORGE E. FITZPATRICK, CFC

MYSTICS FOR OUR TIME: CARMELITE MEDITATIONS FOR A NEW AGE. By Noel O'Donoghue, ODC. Michael Glazier, 1989, 155 pages, \$14.95 cloth.

In August, 1990, at Loyola College, Baltimore — during the Bicentennial Symposium celebrating the arrival of Carmelite Nuns in the United States — Joseph Chinnici, OFM, presented a paper, "The Politics of Mysticism." The paper included an interpretation of recent history of mysticism and suggested that our contemporary legacy is a 'muted' mysticism and a 'privatized' contemplation.

Reflection on Noel O'Donoghue's meditations about the Carmelite mystics Teresa of Jesus, John of the Cross, and Therese of Lisieux might be a step towards retrieving our spiritual heritage and connecting it with our present day lives on this planet earth. O'Donoghue speaks from the passion of his own experience of God and from the wisdom learned in having these saints as friends. His message is not muted.

Teresa is the mystic who affirms that our own prayer experience must be grounded in the Incarnation — in real life. For John of the Cross, the light shining from the mountaintop will help to harmonize all the conditions of daily living. Therese of Lisieux's experience unfolds the struggle of faith frequently connected with physical suffering and inner darkness. In reality what all these mystics teach is love and the various strategies of grace which help connect that love to people and situations in concrete human existence. It is the "go-for-broke" attitude of self-giving.

O'Donoghue does a credible job of presenting dimensions of Carmelite spirituality and the spiritual journey — prayer, friendship,

love, suffering, simplicity. He also gracefully links these traditional themes with contemporary theological reflection. The meditations also address specifically chosen content from the writings of these Carmelite mystics and propose some meanings. Under discussion are Teresa's visions, John's dark nights, and Therese's "little way."

The meditations are both poetic and well-reasoned. They speak to the shallowness and materialism of our age and culture. They bring before us the timelessness and timeliness of "lives of the saints" — lives immersed in the fire of God's love, lives which help transform the world. The meaning and hope generated by these saints, as O'Donoghue understands them, can perhaps touch our present generation which often finds itself trapped in the tides of uncertainty expressed by fluctuating world events. They are meditations for a new age.

These reflections might be particularly helpful, inspiring, and consoling to those engaged in prayer, contemplation, spirituality. They will also serve as a resource for persons involved with retreat programs and spiritual direction.

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COLETTE ACKERMAN, OCD

PERSONALITY AND SPIRITUAL FREEDOM. By Robert and Carol Ann Faucett. Doubleday, 1987, 148 pages, \$6.95.

In this book, Robert and Carol Faucett offer us a basic explanation of Carl Jung's theory of typology in relationship to the spiritual life. The highest aspiration of the spiritual life is Caritas, and Jung's theory promotes the developmental insights of love of self, love of others and love of God. The book is divided into three parts. Part I develops the basic understanding of the theory and its application to personality. Carl Gustav Jung, a noted Swiss psychiatrist, possessed a positive attitude toward religious experience. Bob and Carol Faucett use his theory as a tool for wholeness.

Beginning with the attitudinal stance of extraversion and introversion, the authors give a basic explanation of Jung's theory with illustrations and examples from the life of Jesus. The main functions of perception (sensing and intuition) and judgment (thinking and feeling)