

**St. Therese of Lisieux
Book Club**

September 8/10

The Evidential Power of Beauty: Science and Theology Meet by Thomas Dubay

While everyone is delighted by beauty, and the more alive among us are positively fascinated by it, few are explicitly aware that we can recognize truth by its beauty and simplicity. Dubay explores the reasons why all of the most eminent physicists of the twentieth century agree that beauty is the primary standard for scientific truth. Likewise, the best of contemporary theologians are also exploring with renewed vigor the aesthetic dimensions of divine revelation. Honest searchers after truth can hardly fail to be impressed that these two disciplines, science and theology, so different in methods, approaches and aims, are yet meeting in this and other surprising and gratifying ways.

This book relates these developments to nature, music, academe and our unquenchable human thirst for unending beauty, truth and ecstasy, a thirst quenched only at the summit of contemplative prayer here below, and in the consummation of the beatific vision hereafter.

October 6/8

The Missionary of Wall Street: From Managing Money to Saving Souls on the Streets of New York

by Stephen Auh (pp.184)

What am I, a chief investment officer of one of the country's largest investment managers, doing hailing down strangers at night on the streets of New York City?

"Are you Catholic?" my friends and I ask. "Would you like a rosary? Would you like to go to confession here tonight?" At times, the neighborhood even begins rooting for us. Strangers call out: "Way to go!" "Your courage is inspiring!" We're in our groove now, engaging strangers with joy — and seeing some of them later in church. On the rough streets of the City, working shoulder-to-shoulder with Christ, we're no longer alone; we feel God's grace. You will, too, as you read the dozens of riveting – and often funny – stories in these pages, about ordinary Catholics from the financial sector evangelizing their wary New York neighbors. Indeed, so fascinating are their experiences, you may be tempted one day to join them.

November 10/12

The Bible Is a Catholic Book by Jimmy Akin (pp.200)

In *The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, Jimmy Akin shows how the Bible cannot exist apart from the Church. In its origins and its formulation, in the truths it contains, in its careful preservation over the centuries and in the prayerful study and elucidation of its mysteries, Scripture is inseparable from Catholicism. This is fitting, since both come from God for our salvation.

If you're a Catholic who sometimes gets intimidated by the Bible, *The Bible Is a Catholic Book* will help you better understand and take pride in this gift that God gave the world through the Church. We are the original Bible Christians!

December 8/10

Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish Words of Jesus Can Change Your Life by Louis Tverberg (pp 240)

Lois Tverberg challenges readers to follow their Rabbi more closely by re-examining his words in the light of their Jewish context. Doing so will provide a richer, deeper understanding of his ministry, compelling us to live differently, to become more Christ-like. We'll begin to understand why his first Jewish disciples abandoned everything to follow him, to live out his commands.

Our modern society, with its individualism and materialism, is very different than the tight-knit, family-oriented setting Jesus lived and taught in. What wisdom can we glean from his Eastern, biblical attitude toward life? How can knowing Jesus within this context shed light on his teachings for us today?

January NO MEETING

February 9/11

The Life of Sr. Marie de Mandat-Grancey & Mary's House in Ephesus by Rev. Carl G Schulte C.M. (pp. 396)

Sister Marie de Mandat-Grancey, a Daughter of Charity, responded to God's call and dedicated her life to find Christ, the Word made Flesh, in service to the poor. The first twenty-five years of her ministry were spent caring for the homebound, educating children, accompanying youth in their spiritual journey, and finding families for orphans. In 1886, Sister Marie was sent to Smyrna, near Ephesus, Turkey, where she entered a world very different from her own. While serving in the hospital there, Sister Marie read and shared with her own Sisters and the local Vincentian priests *The Life of the Blessed Virgin*, by Anne Catherine Emmerich, which recorded the events of Mary's last years spent in Ephesus in a house built for her by St. John. Because of Sister Marie's great devotion to the Blessed Mother, she was determined to find this sacred spot. Through collaboration with her Vincentian brothers, local Muslim guides, and the people of the area, Mary's house was found; but the discovery was just the beginning.

March NO SESSION

April 13/15

The Incorruptibles: A Study of the Incorruption of the Bodies of Various Catholic Saints and Beati by Joan Carroll Cruz (pp. 344)

Continuously popular since it first appeared in 1977, *The Incorruptibles* remains the acknowledged classic on the bodies of saints that did not undergo decomposition after death. Many remained fresh and flexible for years, or even centuries. After explaining both natural and artificial mummification, the author shows that the incorruption of the saints' bodies fits neither category but rather constitutes a much greater phenomenon that is unexplained by modern science to this day. The author presents 102 canonized saints, beati, and venerables, summarizing their lives, the discovery of their incorruption, and investigations by Church and medical authorities.

The incorruptible bodies of saints are a consoling sign of Christ's victory over death, a confirmation of the dogma of the Resurrection of the Body, a sign that the Saints are still with us in the Mystical Body of Christ, and proof of the truth of the Catholic Faith—for only in the Catholic Church do we find this phenomenon.

May NO SESSION

June 8/10

Lord of the World Paperback by Robert Hugh Benson (pp.352)

Robert Hugh Benson (1871-1914) was the youngest son of Edward White Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, and younger brother of Edward Frederic Benson. In 1895, he was ordained a priest in the Church of England by his father who was then Archbishop of Canterbury. After many years of questioning and soul-searching he was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1903. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1904 and named a Monsignor in 1911.

This book, written in 1907, is Benson's dystopic vision of a near future world in which religion has, by and large, been rejected or simply fallen by the wayside. The Catholic Church has retreated to Italy and Ireland, while the majority of the rest of the world is either Humanistic or Pantheistic. There is a 'one world' government, and euthanasia is widely available. The plot follows the tale of a priest, Percy Franklin, who becomes Pope Silvester III, and a mysterious man named Julian Felsenburgh, who is identical in looks to the priest and who becomes "Lord of the World".