

Title: Dorothy Day From Union Square To Rome	Author: Dorothy Day
Media type: (check one) X Book _CD/Audio book _DVD	Call Number: 248.2 Day
Review submitted by: Sharon Krieg	Date: November 3, 2014
Subject (e.g. Prayer, Family Life, Sacraments, Saints, Bible Study, Moral Conduct, Social Justice) Morality/Social Justice	
<p>1. What is this book about? (describe briefly) In the form of many published letters to her younger brother, Dorothy Day explains how she has come to her belief in God. Presenting readers with insightful glimpses of the various thoughts she had as she grew from infancy to her present young adulthood, we begin to understand her motivations for serving God the best she knew how. This book is Day's explanation of her attempts to give meaning to her life, from the springboard of a youthful Socialist to her eventual conversion to the Catholic faith. She has a great deal of compassion for others and is willing to go to great lengths to alleviate the injustices of the world. She explains how her social activism lands her in prison along with her Socialist comrades. Her later understanding of Christ helps her develop new methods of dealing with mankind's suffering which is where this book ends, and is further expounded upon in her subsequent book, "The Long Loneliness."</p>	
<p>2. What main message does the author convey? In spite of the many agonies in life and the apparent injustice of it all, why would one believe in a loving God, let alone suffer for believing in Him? Day responds, "...I am begging God to reinforce my fortitude so that if such horrors should come upon me (and thank God we cannot foresee such things), and all my human nature were convulsed even to madness, my will -- my free will which God has given me-- would hold me rigidly in His presence so that in life, which contains such unbearable and terrible things, as well as in death, I will choose Him and hold fast to Him. For Who else is there? Would you have me choose Nothingness? ...And I beg you to read and to believe me when I say that neither life nor death, nor things past nor things to come, can separate me from love of God, provided that by using that gift of free will, I direct my choice toward Him."</p>	
<p>3. What inspired you the most about this book, and why would you recommend it? I wanted to read about a woman who had struggled with believing in God and what conclusions she formed as she resolved that spiritual conflict. This book does just that.</p>	
<p>4. Who would benefit from reading this book? Anyone interested in more contemporary Catholic leaders, especially women leaders, will enjoy this book. I couldn't identify with Day's radical Socialist activism, but I appreciated her explanations for it. My impression was that she was a youthful idealist with strange methods for dealing with mankind's suffering. As Day drew nearer to my traditional Christian beliefs then I fell more in step with her.</p>	
<p>5. Any other impressions: This book is an excellent first account of Day's life up to the time before she established herself as the leader of The Catholic Worker.</p>	