

Title: Why am I Here?	Author: Why am I Here?"
Media type: (check one) X Book _CD/Audio book _DVD	Call Number: J.241 KEL
Review submitted by: Kathleen Rose Bamberger	Date: April 15, 2014
Subject (e.g. Prayer, Family Life, Sacraments, Saints, Bible Study, Moral Conduct, Social Justice) Clarifying a child's Life Purpose	
<p>1. What is this book about? (describe briefly) This finely illustrated 52-page book is about Max, a big-hearted young boy of perhaps 7 or 8 or 9 years of age. Max loves to go fishing with his Grandpa. One day he asks Grandpa "Why am I here?" So Grandpa starts Max on a quest to find out how to become his best self. Over many days, Max has many engaging learning experiences with this purpose of becoming his best self always kept uppermost in his and the reader's minds.</p>	
<p>2. What main message does the author convey? Well-known Catholic author and motivational speaker Matthew Kelly designed his first book for children to help them understand what he's been teaching adults for years: how to become the best version of themselves, as Kelly explains this is a fundamental part of God's Plan for us all. And since the author is the father of one young son, perhaps Kelly created Max as a storybook representation of his own son, or possibly Max is a young imaginary friend who could help the author explain his favorite concept to a young audience developmentally similar to his own son.</p>	
<p>3. What inspired you the most about this book, and why would you recommend it? It's a wonderful way of teaching my 4 & 3 year old grandchildren. They are eager for me to read more to them about Max. Since my grandchildren can't read very much yet, but have lots and lots of questions about life already, they are much charmed and intrigued by the adventures Max has and the questions Max asks of his Grandpa and others who teach him & challenge him so that he can confidently strive to become his best self.</p>	
<p>4. Who would benefit from reading this book? Parents, children, teachers, older brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and grandparents. Anyone who cares about the development of children. Anyone who must answer with strong & hopeful encouragement a child's many questions about why life is the way it is and how a child can effectively develop mastery of necessary life skills for the good of himself, his family and friends and ultimately for the glory of God.</p>	
<p>5. Any other impressions: A real boost for grandparents who are disappointed or disgusted with the loads of nonsense in mainstream so-called young children's literature today; much of which fails to develop morals or character but is packed with vain super heroes or vapid trite fairy tales.</p>	