



The Book Reviewer

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIBRARY

MAY 2014

WELCOME TO YOUR PARISH LIBRARY!

- Located through the double glass doors in the main vestibule of the church
- The library is open for all masses
- Find detailed check-out instructions posted near the marble shelf
- Materials may be borrowed for up to three weeks
- Donations of books, DVDs, & CDs that reflect Catholic Christian faith and principles are greatly appreciated. Just drop them off in the library!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A number of new and/or donated books are now on the shelves, including:

Mary: *Mary Through the Centuries* by Jaroslav Pelikan
Magnificat—The Journey and the Song by Elisabeth Ruth Obbard

Relationships: *Finding a Spiritual Friend* by Timothy Jones
Speaking the Truth in Love by Ruth Koch and Kenneth Haugk

Philosophy: *Meister Eckhart—Selected Writings*, Edited by Robert Davies
New Proofs for the Existence of God by Robert Spitzer

Theology: *The Godless Delusion* by Patrick Madrid
Building the Earth by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

DVDs: *Restless Heart—The Confessions of St. Augustine*
The Jewish Roots of Catholicism



The Unbearable Wholeness of Being by Ilia Delio (Theology)

Thomas Aquinas wrote that in order to have an accurate image of God we must have accurate knowledge about the universe. There wasn't very much accurate scientific information available in the 13th century; and the church has always been slow to accept new scientific information about the cosmos. Since the 19th century there has been an explosion of such information from Darwin, Einstein, quantum physics, and

all of the latest discoveries of astrophysics.

Ilia Delio bases her writings upon an acceptance of everything that has been discovered by science, but she also bases her writings upon the analysis of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. She constructs a convincing narrative about the evolution of the universe based on love as both the source and the goal of all that exists.

"What will it take for us to realize that we are unfinished

creatures, who are in the process of being created? That our world is being created? That Christ is being formed in us?"

For transformation to take place, two changes are required in the church and in society. The necessary changes are of a static fundamentalism in religion and of an over-reliance on progress (technology). Both of these are dead ends for humanity.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno



PLEASE RETURN YOUR BORROWED ITEMS ASAP! SOME HAVE NEVER BEEN RETURNED, AND IT IS EXPENSIVE AND SOMETIMES IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE THEM.

Are any of these missing library materials hiding on your shelves at home?

Books:

*Whole Child/
Whole Parent*

*A Peek Into My
Church*

Scarlet Music

DVDs:

October Baby

Babette's Feast

G.K. Chesterton

Proof of Heaven by Eben Alexander (Spirituality)

Eben Alexander is a highly educated neurosurgeon, who, until the time of his illness, had been a skeptic about religion; only going to church occasionally, to please his wife, and at Christmas and Easter time. Eben was adopted as an infant, because his teenage parents were unable to care for him. He had a very close and loving relationship with his adoptive family, and later with his birth family, as well.

In mid-life, while very active in his profession, he

suddenly succumbed to a devastating bacterial infection which totally destroyed his neo-cortex, the thinking part of the brain. He lay lifeless in a coma for one week. The doctors thought that he would either die or be totally brain damaged if he survived.

He did survive, and awoke to greet his family and visitors, most of whom he remembered. Gradually, he recovered all of his memory and his professional knowledge. This was amazing enough, but the

exuberance he felt about what he experienced while lying in a coma compelled him to write this book. His story is not about the usual near-death experience, but a very beautiful, lengthy, and detailed retelling of meeting God and his angels, and an especially vivid encounter with a younger sister—the youngest daughter of his birth parents—who he hadn't known and who had died before he knew anything about his birth family.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno

Julian's Gospel by Veronica Mary Rolf (People of the Church)

Very little is known of the life of Julian of Norwich beyond the fact that in mid-life she became an enclosed recluse. Her hermitage was two rooms with a small garden space, attached to the parish church and blessed by the local Bishop. During her years as a recluse, she wrote two accounts of her spiritual life—perhaps ordered to do so by her confessor. She was able to participate in the liturgy of the parish, and to communicate at a small outside window with the many people who came to her for spiritual advice and direction. Most accounts of her life focus on the short and long versions of her "Showings", which tell of visions and revela-

tions which occurred as she lay, apparently dying, at about the age of thirty. She spent the rest of her life meditating on these "showings."



This book about Julian is different, in that the author places her firmly in the very interesting history of 14th century England. Norwich was the second largest city in England at the time; a

thriving seaport and center of trade. That century in all of Europe was a time of terror and disaster, with thousands of people dying from wars and plagues. The author speculates about the details of Julian's early life, for instance, that she was probably from and active in the commercial class, married and with, perhaps, two daughters. All of this was deduced from internal evidence in the "showings," and her very capable and practical writing style.

Only a priest, Julian's mother, and various friends and servants are mentioned in Julian's own account of her visions: a week-long vision of the passion of Christ, and his message of love.

Reviewed by Clare Dinno