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# Journey in Faith and Fidelity: Women Shaping Religious Life for a Renewed Church, edited by Nadine Foley

Elizabeth A. Dreyer

Fairfield University, [edreyer@fairfield.edu](mailto:edreyer@fairfield.edu)

## Peer Reviewed

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losophers will find them useful in the classroom and in comparative studies.

LINDA M. MACCAMMON  
Carroll College, Helena

JOURNEY IN FAITH AND FIDELITY: WOMEN SHAPING RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR A RENEWED CHURCH. Edited by Nadine Foley, O.P. New York: Continuum, 1999. Pp. 304. \$34.95.

The 15 chapters in this book are written by 12 members of the Adrian Dominican congregation who chart the renewal of religious life since Vatican II. They also raise prophetic questions about structures in the Church that do not take account of the experience of many of the baptized within and beyond religious life. It is an informative, thoughtful, and honest book that includes critical appraisals of relevant Vatican documents.

The first seven chapters are broadly and deeply theological. They provide a clear and penetrating narrative of the theological foundations of renewal in the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II and detail the processes by which this renewal has been accomplished in one particular setting. Miriam Mullins examines the biblical foundations of the renewal and the shift from the language of perfection to that of covenant and servant leadership (31). Anneliese Sinnott describes the shift from a classical to a dialogical theological methodology that is faithful to both the multivalent truth of present experience and tradition. In a later chapter she grounds the call to mission in the life and ministry of Jesus. Carol Johannes explores a kenotic Christology that teaches us about the nature of God and of our understanding of power. Nadine Foley leads us through a theology of the Holy Spirit and the ways that charisms function in the Church as a locus of inner authority and mission. Patricia Walter outlines pre- and post-conciliar ecclesologies and confronts the tensions that perdure between religious life and other segments of the Church.

Chapters 8–15 focus on particular aspects of the work of the Adrian Dominican congregation. Topics include orga-

nizational theory; the nature and function of chapter meetings after Vatican II; the founding of Network, a political lobby in Washington, D.C.; as well as chapters on feminist, womanist, and *mujerista* perspectives.

It would be a serious mistake not to read this book because of its location in one particular religious congregation. This is an extremely important book for everyone in the Church because it describes in vivid and dynamic ways what it means to “do” theology, and chronicles how faithful attention to authentic, prayerful, theological activity can and does lead to radical change in one’s outlook and living (102). This path is open to every baptized Christian, and women religious provide a model for everyone in the Church to grow in the freedom of the children of God. In this volume, the reader finds encouragement, humble but sure confidence, and a prophetic vision of a Church that is always reforming itself, open to diversity within and beyond itself, and honest about the struggle to respond to the ever-changing call of the Spirit and of the world.

ELIZABETH A. DREYER  
Fairfield University, Connecticut

GODLUST: FACING THE DEMONIC, EMBRACING THE DIVINE. By Kerry Walters. New York: Paulist, 1999. Pp. xi + 167. \$11.95.

*Godlust* is a reflection on the effects of original sin—the “worm in the heart”—on contemporary Western culture. Using Herod the Great as an exemplar, Walters presents an astute analysis of a fundamental distortion of our cultural worldview. “Put in its starkest terms, the desire *for* God that lies at the core of our spiritual identities mutates into a lust *to be* God. What originally is a divinely embedded yearning that draws us toward God corrupts into an obsessive drive to usurp God’s place” (6). This distortion, found in the thought of influential philosophers, scientists, and reformers, effectively reduces or removes a God-consciousness from our worldview.