

along many and various paths.

All sources cited are clearly listed in the back, enabling one to pursue points of interest. Many books are so listed, but it would have helped the reader if there had been a succinct bibliography for those wishing to explore particular themes further. The author is professor of Religion and Politics at St Andrews University, and at times the tone of his writing is that of a text aimed at undergraduates – indeed in the introduction he refers to the chapters as ‘units’. But the author clearly knows his Merton, and by showing us so many facets of his life, helps us guard against pigeon-holing this remarkable man. For me, this book with its wealth of ideas and insights has been an inspiration, sending me off on a renewed exploration of Merton’s life and writings, and their meaning for those on the spiritual path today.

Stephen Dunhill is a retired teacher living in Northumbria and is treasurer and membership secretary of the Thomas Merton Society.

Have you used the discussion course, Bridges to Contemplative Living by Montaldo and Toth? Would you be interested in reviewing it for the Journal? We can send copies to you if you would like to try it. Please email or write to the editors.

Gethsemani Homilies, revised and enlarged edition

Matthew Kelty, OCSO
Edited, with an introduction,
by William O. Paulsell
Cistercian Publications,
Liturgical Press,
Collegeville, Minnesota
ISBN 9780879070243
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Paperback, xxxix +172 pages
\$29.95

With the death of Matthew Kelty OCSO on 18 February, 2011 at the age of 95, this publication of a revised edition of a 2001 collection of homilies is timely. It comes with a new introduction and an additional piece about Thomas Merton. For countless guests and retreatants at the Abbey of Gethsemani, being present in the guest chapel after Compline and listening to Fr. Matthew was a memorable experience. That voice is now silent but the wisdom and humility, poetry and humour are powerfully present in this book. It is especially to be heard in the new introduction which takes the form of an interview with Fr. Matthew by the editor and his wife. For this introduction alone this is a book worth reading. Fr. Matthew speaks openly and honestly and with great humility about his life, his experience as a Divine Word missionary, becoming a Trappist and his novitiate under Thomas Merton. He also discusses what it was like being a member of an experimental monastery and of

his ten years living as a hermit in Papua New Guinea. He expands on and develops the themes from his memoir *Flute Solo* written in 1973 when he was 57. In the interview, in his 90s, he looks back on writing that earlier piece and how it enabled him to come to terms with himself as a gay man and to see his sexuality not as a problem but as a positive asset to living as a celibate in a community of men. In developing that theme further he explores issues around gender and masculinity and femininity and how those differing aspects are manifest in the way that men live together and care for each other in a monastery. His reading of Jung helped him in this exploration. The homilies, over sixty of them, are mostly quite brief and were delivered either at mass, at chapter meetings, or as talks to retreatants. They are grouped under headings: Monastic Life, Issues of Faith, Jesus, Saints, Ethics and Evil, Sacraments, and Death. They are full of insights. He reflects not only on his own life but developments in monastic life and in the church. His references are many ranging from the Vietnam War, Salvador Dali, violence on TV, the dangers of wealth. He manages to be thoughtful and thought-provoking but never overly pious. I would have found it helpful to know where and when these homilies were delivered, but this is a minor criticism and does not in any way detract from the value of this book. Fr. Matthew was almost an exact

contemporary of Thomas Merton by age, though their lives were very different. In the final piece, ‘A memory of Thomas Merton’, Fr. Matthew describes how these two men were often in conflict but how his novitiate under Merton changed him completely. A fascinating and useful book.

Karl Goswell is a member of the committee of the TMS.

The Psychology of Spirituality: An Introduction

Larry Culliford
Jessica Kingsley Publishers
London and Philadelphia 2011
ISBN 9781849050043
Paperback, 255 pages
£14.99

This is a book which will find an appreciative readership amongst many in the healthcare field. Practitioners and others have been given a comprehensive and insightful guide to both the sources and the drivers of the growing research interest into the relationship of spirituality to healing and wellbeing. It will serve also as a textbook and general encouragement to clinicians looking for ways to develop comprehensive holistic models of assessment and care for their patients.

As such it builds on Larry Culliford’s earlier well-received journal articles on spiritual care and assessment in the field of mental