

wish to know and love" (294). This sense of God being a part of the interweavings and travails, of the minor and major incidents of life, nudging, encouraging, always holding safe in God's providence, runs through both of their narratives. Although he tells his story in a very different way to Sr Wendy, in the last few pages my response to Ellsberg began to mellow a little and I became more relaxed in his narrative. In the words again of Pope Francis, "I believe in my life story" (293). It could have been said by either of them, and neither of them could have said it without talking about God.

Rachel M Denton is a canonical hermit. Her university and early teaching career were spent traversing the length of the A1 road from Newcastle-upon-Tyne down to Cambridge. She began living as a hermit in rural Lincolnshire in 2001, making her solemn profession into the hands of (then) Bishop Malcolm McMahon in 2006. In 2018 she moved to a suburban hermitage in the diocese of Hallam. She writes occasionally, mainly for Church publications. Her hermitage is dedicated to St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne.

The Way of Thomas Merton: A prayer journey through Lent

Robert Inchausti

SPCK, London, 2022

ISBN 978-0-281-08582-8 (pbk) 116 pages

£8.85

Not being terribly familiar with Thomas Merton, I must admit that I found this book quite fascinating, and dear readers, it has sparked my curiosity enough to want to delve deeper into the world of Merton!

Inchausti is able to draw upon the works and words of Merton in a way that allows the reader a glimpse into the depths of who he was and so we are called to engage with life, spirituality, and ourselves perhaps more than we might have anticipated upon picking up the book.

Indeed, Inchausti suggests that should we not be familiar with Merton then we ought to expect to 'be surprised, if not scandalized, by the story about to unfold here' (p.2).

With an introduction from the author and nineteen short chapters, this book is accessible to all who are seeking to explore themselves, their faith, and their spirituality during the season of Lent. I believe this book would work equally well for the individual looking to dig deeper during

Lent, and also for group work. There is enough material within its pages to adequately cater for a Lent course, and I am quite confident that any group reflections would offer some varied and interesting responses.

Each chapter concludes with a set of between two and five questions, provoking the reader to reflect on what they have just read, both internally and externally - what response if any has the chapter effected, and how might we change because of it?

The author includes more than just Merton in this prayer journey, and utilises to great effect the words of Bonhoeffer, Beckett, Rohr, and Wordsworth, to name but a few.

I have been challenged and encouraged by this book, I have been surprised by how I have responded to it and I am likely to return to it again before Lent descends in February. I recommend it to anybody who is seeking to deepen their relationship with Jesus in a way that will also help to develop an understanding of themselves, and what it is to know and to love and nurture our true selves.

The Way of Thomas Merton, a book not just for Lent, but for life!

Rev'd Paul Knox is the Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Bamburgh, Belford and Lucker in North Northumberland. He trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield and lived and prayed alongside the brethren of the Community of the Resurrection whilst studying there. Before training for ministry Paul had a career performing and teaching music in Newcastle, Northumberland and beyond.

Liturgical Feasts and Seasons: Novitiate Conferences on Scripture and Liturgy 3

Thomas Merton

Ed. Patrick F. O'Connell

Cascade Books, 2022

ISBN 978-1-7252-5312-4 (pbk) lxxxi + 527 pages

£43.05

A happy memory from the time immediately before I became a novice of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield is of listening to audio recordings of Thomas Merton giving conferences to the novices at Gethsemani Abbey. The sing-song drawl of Merton's voice became a familiar travel companion as I drove from one monastery to the next