**St. Peter Catholic Book Group**

## 2015 Book Reviews

**Ratings 1–5** †

**Joy to the World . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** December 2015 (††††+) (4.67)
 by Scott Hahn

*Synopsys*:
What could be more familiar than the Christmas story – and yet what could be more extraordinary? The cast of characters is strange and exotic: shepherds and magicians, an emperor and a despot, angels, and a baby who is Almighty God. Yet the strangeness of it all calls for an explanation, one that makes the familiar fresh again. In Joy to the World, bestselling author Scott Hahn brings the first Noel to new light through his thought-provoking combination of exciting storytelling and penetrating biblical insight. He shows Christmas to be a family story. (from the book jacket)

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

We agreed that this was the perfect book to read as an Advent devotion. Even as familiar as the story and its players are, we all felt we learned something. We also appreciated the depth of Hahn’s research and his thorough source documentation. His illumination of the Old Testament within the Christmas story was a highlight.

* If you can radiate joy, that’s what Christmas is about!
* Very uplifting, an easy, sweet read.
* I loved his chapter about the angels. Comforting to know we have supernatural help.
* Hahn’s comparison of Mary to the golden vessels dedicated for Temple service was a beautiful image.

Favorite Quotes:

“Joy is the best argument for Catholicism. People find it irresistible and irrefutable. And we have it built into our great feasts.” (p.166)

“Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine,

There’s always laughter and good red wine.

At least I’ve always found it so.

Bendicamus Domino!” (p.166-7)

“The revelation of Christmas is not merely information, and it’s not only about the forgiveness of sins…Salvation consists in God making us his children and sharing his divine nature with us.” (p.151)

**Saint John Paul The Great – His Five Loves . . . . . . . . . . . . .** November 2015 (†††††)
 by Jason Evert

*Synopsys*:
Discover the five great loves of St. John Paul II through remarkable unpublished stories on him from bishops, priests, students, Swiss Guards, and others. Mining through a mountain of papal resources, Jason Evert has uncovered these many gems, offering a treasure chest brimming with the jewels of the saint’s life. After a brief overview of John Paul’s life, Evert explores in depth his five great loves: Young People, Human Love, The Eucharist, Our Lady, and The Cross.

This work is intended to be catechetical, inspiring, and evangelical. By looking at what he loved and why, the goal is to help readers learn more about key aspects of John Paul’s life and teachings, including Theology of the Body, Divine Mercy, Total Consecration, Eucharistic adoration, and redemptive suffering. *(Copied from Amazon.com)*

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

Overwhelmingly the group loved this book. We found it to be an inspiring journey through the life of Pope John Paul II. We agreed it was an encouragingly wonderful, quick read – the perfect first book to read about the life of this beloved saint.

* Hard to put down!
* His attraction to the Blessed Sacrament and to the sick and infirm were profoundly inspiring.
* I was impressed by how well he knew the enemy. His library was full of Communist writings.
* I am inspired by his life of simplicity
* I liked how every story was well-documented.
* I loved the doctrine and apologetics woven through it

Favorite Quotes:

“…Hitler requested that all men capable of leadership in Poland be ‘liquidated’. Thanks to the providence of God, they missed one.” (p.10)

“…John Paul’s insistence on natural means of avoiding conception when necessary raises an interesting set of questions for the modern couple: What if the woman’s body is already perfectly made? What if she doesn’t need drugs, chemicals, and barriers: what if she simply needs to be understood?” (p.123)

“The Church’s stance on contraception does not stem from naïve traditionalism. It comes, in the words of one Vatican reporter, ‘from a profound analysis of the need to integrate sexuality in an exclusive and permanent relationship open to life in the context of marriage. The wisdom of this view is becoming increasingly clearer’.” (p.123)

“He knew well the primacy of ‘be-ing’ over ‘do-ing’, as can be seen when he prayed: ‘Help us, Jesus, to understand that in order ‘to do’ in your Church also in the field of the new evangelization that is so urgently needed, we must first learn ‘to be,’ that is, to stay with you, in your sweet company, in adoration.” (p.137)

“…Jesus did not die so that humans would never have to suffer, but so that they would know *how* to suffer. The Passion of Christ removed the threat of eternal suffering while revealing the power of temporal suffering.” (p. 175)

“The man who taught the world how to live was now teaching all men how to die” (p. 200)

**Won By Love . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** October 2015 (†††+) (3.75)
 by Norma McCorvey with Gary Thomas

*Synopsys*:
 In Roe v. Wade, perhaps the most controversial United States Supreme Court decision, Norma McCorvey fought for and won the right to secure an abortion.  Though she never had an abortion, under the pseudonym “Jane Roe,” Norma reluctantly became the poster child for the pro-choice movement. Over the next two decades, Norma experienced the grief and despair of millions of women who chose to abort their babies; she witnessed the destruction of thousands of human lives in abortion clinics where she worked; and the “champion” of the pro-choice movement was soon being crushed by the weight of so much pain, so much death, and so many ill-considered “choices”. Finally, she began to break. She found out that the real choice she had been burdened with was not about abortion but about eternal life. It was a choice that would shock the world and change Norma’s life forever. (from book’s back cover)

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

There was general agreement among the group members that while this is undeniably a compelling story, the roughness of the writing style was distracting to some of us.  Nonetheless, most were genuinely glad that we had read it and we all agreed we had learned a lot about Roe v. Wade, the abortion industry, and Norma McCorvey.

* Just loved it – it had every emotion in it.
* The message from this book was very powerful, “God will come after his lost sheep.  There is always hope.”
* Excruciating to see so clearly what people will do.
* Emily’s role was amazing. “and a little child will lead them.”
* This story removed any sense that abortion is benign in any way.

Favorite Quotes:

“…working in an abortion clinic, combined with drugs, had robbed me of my feelings.” (p.53)

“In truth, though at the time I didn’t know it, I was being won by love.  I could handle the hatred. When people yelled at me and called me a murderer and a wicked witch and things that shouldn’t be printed – that didn’t affect me.  I could handle that. But the love in Ronda’s face, and the love pouring out of Emily’s voice – well, that love just about ripped me apart.” (p.113)

“No matter how difficult life can be, with Jesus you always have a reason to be optimistic.” (p.167)

“In the abortion movement, we always assumed that Christians were mean-spirited, judgmental, pleasure-hating radicals. If they opened their mouths at all, we thought, it was only to condemn sinners and deliver a sermon about the wages of wickedness.  In fact, I found out that we were the ones who were mean-spirited, self-righteous, and judgmental.  It was those in the abortion movement who were ruled by hatred and spite” (p.168)

**Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** September 2015 (††††)
 by Diane Moczar

*Synopsys*:

Diane Moczar has done the seemingly impossible: written a terrific, thematically complete and coherent history of the two-thousand-year-old Catholic Church in about 170 pages. She identifies ten events that have served as hinges upon which Catholic and civilizational history turned and then examines these *hinges* -- the conversion of Constantine, the Baptism of Clovis, the crowning of Charlemagne, etc. -- for their significance.  The author’s ten dates are: 313 A.D., the Edict of Milan; 432 A.D., Pope Leo I turns back Attila and the Huns; 496 A.D., the baptism of Clovis; 800 A.D., the coronation of Charlemagne; 910 A.D., the foundation of the Abbey of Cluny; 1000 A.D., the beginning of the Church's most glorious age; 1517 A.D., the Reformation; 1571 A.D., the Battle of Lepanto; 1789 A.D., the French revolution; 1917 A.D., Fatima and the 20th century. Each date serves as a focal point for the discussion of a particular era of Church history. *Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know* is not a big book, quantitatively speaking, but it is so if regarded in qualitative terms. Professor Moczar presents us with much more than a mere chronicle of events. The topics she deals with in the book were carefully chosen for their "landmark" character, and she explores each of them with rich and revealing results, guided by the twin notions of surprise and chastisement, which she weaves into her story with very good effect. [*Fellowship of Catholic Scholars*](http://www.catholicscholars.org/index.php)

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

Most all the discussion participants agreed this book was a book worth reading.  Many members remembered learning about some of the events in school, but felt the refresher was useful and timely.  They all liked the author’s wise choice of format making history more understandable and come alive.

* I’m struck by how history repeats itself.  God always raises up a hero to save us from ourselves.
* Amazing to see God’s hand in human events throughout time.
* Fascinating to learn the genesis of the Prayer to St Michael, devotion to Sacred Heart, etc.
* History always seemed to be dull and in black and white, this book changed the understanding of history into being alive and in full color!
* I love history so I really enjoyed the book and it was an easy read.  The author did a great job of showing how one event affected what would happen in the future.

Favorite Quotes:

* St. Justine Martyr wrote in 313 AD: “The world suffers nothing from Christians but hates them because they reject its pleasures.”
* In 1517 it is noted that the Reformation’s success was tied to the practice of subjecting dogma to public debate. In the place of divinely revealed truth authoritatively taught people were asked to choose what they wanted to believe.  Religion immediately became mixed with politics.
* Fr. Frederick Faber analyzed many of the effects of the Protestant mentality on Catholics in 19th century England.  “It is hard,” he observed, “to live among the icebergs and not be cold.”  Is there a family left among us that does not include at least one unbeliever, whom everyone agrees, out of “kindliness,” not to annoy with awkward religious questions?  Hence people get strange views about the easiness of the salvability of heretics, and at last sink to making the kindliness of a doctrine the measure of its truth.

**In His Spirit** A Guide to Today’s Spirituality **. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** August 2015 (†††+)
 by Richard J. Hauser, S.J.

*Synopsys*: Nothing will change your life more meaningfully than developing a vibrant and consistent prayer life. Prayer is at the core of the Christian life, but most people have never really been taught how to pray in deeply personal ways. Listening to the Holy Spirit is at the center of prayer, but most of us struggle to recognize the difference between the Holy Spirit speaking to us and the thousands of ideas that float through our minds each day. By reading In His Spirit, you will have a new awareness of all things spiritual. You will see how our modern culture is influencing our efforts to grow spiritually, it is a fascinating look at two models of spirituality viewed from the perspective of the New Testament.

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

Several in the group commented that they struggled to get through this book in part because so much of the guidance seemed repetitious and in part because the concepts were weighty and intense. While this book was definitely not a favorite of the group as a whole, we agreed it was a worthwhile read and brought to mind important concepts about allowing the Holy Spirit to aid us in our prayer and throughout our lives.

* “I needed this book, but it scared me.”
* “Not a fun read”
* ”Exactly what I needed to get my prayer habits back on track!”

*Favorite Quotes*:

* It [becoming like Christ] means allowing our unique personal traits to be influenced by the spirit as were Christ’s and so be directed always toward love and service. Nor, finally, does becoming like Christ mean being removed from our particular vocation in life to live in some removed, sacred environment in which we can praise God undisturbed. Rather it means performing all the duties of our vocation under the influence of the Spirit. In short we can become like Christ and still remain who we are, where we are.” P. 52
* “…in order to discover our patterns of obstacles to the Spirit, we must first develop a rhythm of life that facilitates living in tune with the Spirit and recognizing which motivations in us flow from the Spirit and which do not.” P. 82

**“I’m Not Being Fed!”** Discovering the Food that Satisfies the Soul **. . . . . .**July 2015 (††††+)
 by Jeff Cavins

*Synopsys*: Jeff Cavins, Catholic turned Protestant minister turned Catholic, explains that he came back to the Catholic Church based on Scripture, its teaching, but most of all because of the Eucharist. In his book he talks about the one complaint among Catholics who have left the Church who say they are “not being fed” by the Catholic Church. His answer to this is they do not know what the Eucharist is. As he presents the story of his own return to Catholicism, Cavins builds a case for the unique character of the Catholic Church as the Church founded by Christ. He goes on to say that we all have a spiritual hunger in our hearts, but who feeds that hunger? The shepherd is responsible for feeding his sheep, to guide his sheep, and we, the sheep, have to listen to what he says. Jesus says of Himself, “I am the good shepherd,” then He instructs Peter in John 21 to feed and tend His sheep. So how does Jesus the Good Shepherd feed His sheep? He feeds His sheep through Peter and the Apostles with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Cavins takes the reader step by step deeper into how Jesus feeds us, by His spirit, by His word, and ultimately by His own flesh and blood. John 6 is perhaps the most powerful chapter in the New Testament regarding what the sheep are to eat. Here we see a model of the Mass and Cavins once again walks us through understanding each passage. We, as Catholics, have the true presence of Jesus to nourish us every time we attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. As Jeff Cavins ends his book he says, “There is no Bible study in the world that is good enough or stimulating enough or nutritious enough to substitute for the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. There’s no song moving enough to replace the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.”

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

* “The book explains so much of what Protestants believe and justifies Catholic teachings.”
* “There is so much history of the Church explained in the book. Every page just seems to jump out at you.”
* This is a great reference book on the Eucharist and the true presence of Jesus. It’s a great book on Church history. I loved when it was pointed out again and again Jesus saying: ‘I am the light of the world,’ ‘I am the door’, ‘I am the true vine,’ ‘Take, eat; this is my body,’ ‘Eat My flesh, drink my blood.” Jesus did not say, “I am a loaf of bread.” He said, “Take, eat, *this is* my body.”
* “I thought it was pretty deep, pretty slow and not a page turner.”
“I liked how he linked the OT with the NT.”
“I would give it to people I know who have left the Church. It always seems that those folks complain that the Church doesn’t teach them anything yet when they leave the Catholic Church they complain about everything they say the Church teaches—which always seems to be totally misunderstood.”

**Nine Words. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** June 2015 (††††+) (4.375)
 by Allen R Hunt

*Synopsys*:

 No one grows up wanting to lead a meaningless or unsatisfying life. No one yearns to be incomplete or frustrated or to lack a destiny or purpose. Who would want that? Deep within each of us, God has implanted the desire to be the-best-version-of-ourselves. God has a dream for your life and His dream for you is unique. Only you are you. Nine words best describe the-best-version-of-yourself®. Saint Paul shares these nine words in his letter to the Galatians, *we know them as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23*). These nine words provide the blueprint to your destiny, the dream God has for your life.
 This simple study will help you dive, in real ways, into God s dream for your life in order to become the-best-version-of-yourself®. (from Amazon.com)

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

 The group largely enjoyed this book and found it to be a great reminder of lessons learned in our youth. We agreed that the author provided wonderful definitions of each of the gifts, examples of how they are lived out in our lives, and excellent scripture references.

* I loved the way the author connected all the gifts to one another
* Great format. Easy to take up and put down as necessary.
* The practical suggestions for how to improve in living out each gift in our own lives at the end of each chapter were extremely helpful.
* The book would be an outstanding selection for a Bible Study – either Catholic or multi-denominational.
* Simple ideas, not easy to carry out, but simple in concept.

Favorite Quotes:

* “The best version of yourself will live by faith in God rather than faith in yourself or in the powers of the world. As a result, your behaviors, values, and priorities will change.” (p.11)
* “The worst version of yourself means a life filled with strife, discord, and anger in all your relationships.” (p.50)
* “As you continue to pray, God’s Spirit will move in you to grow patience with others.” (p.80)

**The New Rosary In Scripture. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .**May 2015 (††††+)
 by Edward Sri

*Synopsys*: This popular introduction to praying the Rosary draws readers closer to Jesus and Mary by placing the mysteries, including the new Luminous Mysteries, in the context of Scripture. The book explains Pope John Paul II's profound reflections on the meaning of the Rosary, addresses commonly asked questions about Mary and the Rosary, presents his practical teaching on how to pray it, and provides the biblical background for all twenty mysteries. It also includes a Scriptural Rosary that offers ten Bible texts suitable for meditation on each mystery. An appendix offers the complete text of Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, Rosarium Virginis Mariae. (from Amazon.com)

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

The group’s discussion centered on how this book helped illuminate the beauty of developing a deeper relationship with Jesus and Mary through exploration of the Mysteries of the Rosary.

* A great gift for RCIA candidates or anyone wishing to better understand the Rosary
* Very practical and readable. Packed with great information that Sri masterfully brings to life.
* Inspired me to be more consistent in praying the Rosary.
* Sri’s illumination of the Jewish customs and background of this devotion was fascinating.

Favorite Quotes:

* “When praying the Rosary, it is as if we are looking at ‘pictures’ from the life and mission of Jesus Christ ” (p.34)
* ‘“One helpful way to discern what we put at the center of our lives is to consider what we worry about…When something causes us great anxiety or worry, it is often a sign that we are not seeking *first* Christ’s kingdom. We have allowed something other than God to move into the center of our lives. We are in need of realignment.” (p.87)
* “Most of all, as the ark of old bore God’s presence to Israel, Mary bears the presence of God become man to the whole world. And as the new Ark of the Covenant, she continues her role of bringing Christ into the world today through her powerful intercession for our lives.” (p.63)
* “Far from offering an escape from the problems of the world, the Rosary obliges us to see them with responsible and generous eyes, and obtains for us the strength to face them with the certainty of God’s help and the firm intention of bearing witness in every situation to ‘love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (Col 3:14).” (p. 210)

**7 Secrets of the Eucharist. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** April 2015 (††††)
 by Vinny Flynn

*Synopsys*: Pope John Paul II referred to the Holy Eucharist as “the greatest treasure of the Church,” and yet even many devoted Catholics have a limited understanding of this powerful sacrament. This book will change all that! You will walk away with a completely new awareness that the Eucharist is not just about receiving Communion; it’s about transforming your daily life.

 Deeply based on the Scriptures, the writings of the saints, and the teachings of our two most recent popes, this profound and remarkably readable book will introduce you to some of the “hidden” truths of the Eucharist – truths that have always been embraced by theologians, saints, and mystics, but have rarely been passed on to the average person in a meaningful way.

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:
 The ladies who attended the discussion agreed that this book confirmed many things we already knew and understood about the Eucharist, but also gave us some new insights into this most important sacrament. Some said they learned a new intimacy, a completeness of the Trinity that they don’t remember learning as cradle Catholics growing up.

* This book reinforces what a beautiful and wonderful gift the Eucharist is.
* It helped me realize I need to prepare more for receiving Eucharist.
* Spiritual Communion – What a beautiful thing to be able to do!

Favorite Quotes:

* “The Eucharist is alive.”
* ‘“Am I seeing your hands filled with graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way?”
* “As Pope John Paul II points out, we ‘need to cultivate a lively awareness of Christ’s real presence’ and we should take care ‘to show that awareness through tone of voice, gestures, posture, and bearing.”
* “We must strive never to consume this “Bread” absent-mindedly or casually as we might eat other food, but rather to prepare ourselves adequately for this awesome banquet were, with great reverence and gratitude, we take God Himself into us.”

**The Return of the Prodigal Son. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** March 2015 (††††+)
 by Henri J.M. Nouwen

*Synopsys*: By chance Henri Nouwen encountered a reproduction of Rembrandt’s *The Return of the Prodigal Son* which sent him on a long spiritual adventure. Here he shares with us the deeply personal meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. This powerful meditation illuminates the parable of the prodigal son found in Luke's Gospel. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy or anger. The challenge to love as the father and be loved as the son will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times. Nouwen discovers anew the reality that God's love is unconditional and shares his own spiritual journey with us.

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:
 Most all of the ladies in the group clearly got a lot out of the book and could relate to the different characters in the parable as Nouwen went into detail to explain them—the prodigal son who leaves the security of home to experience the world for himself, the resentful older brother who always was faithful and did things right yet didn’t feel the acknowledgement he thought he deserved, the father who runs out to both his sons to bring them into the celebration of joy. Many have already handed copies of the book out to different relatives and friends to read.

* Resentment and joy cannot coexist. The elder son did everything right but still could not experience the father’s joy.
* I really liked this author and have read several of his other books. I could identify with every part of the book to the point of tears.
* I relate to the elder brother…I’ve done all the right things: obedient, dutiful, hardworking; but when I see others who haven’t worked as hard get all the praise I can recognize that dark power that also erupts in me. I was brought to tears.
* I appreciated the art history and the analysis of Rembrandt’s painting, all the small details that speak volumes in meaning; e.g.: the father’s hands embracing the younger son—both feminine and masculine.
* I thought it very interesting, almost bold, for Nouwen to say that God is so naïve as to think that there would be great rejoicing when all receive the same reward for different amounts of work. “Why should you be envious because I am generous?” I see the older brother in me too.
* It was easy to read, honest, inspirational, soul searching—a very personal experience.
* We don’t deny the darkness, it’s just that we choose to live without the light.

Favorite Quotes:

* “I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found.”
* ‘“To whom do I belong? To God or to the world?” Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God.’
* “I have to kneel before the Father, put my ear against his chest and listen, without interruption, to the heartbeat of God.”

**At the Heart of the Gospel . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** February 2015 (†††+)
 by Christopher West

*Synopsys*: The sexual revolution brought a terribly distorted vision of the body and sex into the mainstream. How should Christians respond? With his illuminating Theology of the Body, Pope John Paul II challenged the modern world not to stop at the surface, but to enter the depth of the “great mystery” that the body and sex reveal: a mystery that lies *at the heart of the Gospel* itself. Since he first discovered John Paul II’s teaching in 1993, Christopher West has devoted himself to sharing its life-transforming message with the world. In this book, West leads us into the depth of Christ’s “nuptial union” with the Church, demonstrating how authentic Catholic teaching on the body and sex saves us from both the libertine perspective of popular culture *and* the cold puritanism that has sometimes infected Christianity. In the process, West provides a blueprint for reaching our sexually broken world in the “new evangelization.”

*Comments* from the group’s discussion:

 Many of the ladies thought this a rather difficult book to read, some not having ever read Pope JPII’s “Theology of the Body”. It’s like a textbook, said one lady. Most all of our readers found many golden nuggets to reread and meditate on, however, agreeing they would all find it worth their while to reread again at some point. Even though the book did not rate as many crosses as some of our other books, the discussion was one of the best.

* “The book gives such an important message to give our kids. It is a life changing message.”
* “The book gives us a view of Theology on a much deeper level”
* “God uses what we know and experience as human beings to try to communicate the deep love he has for us all.”
* “God made us male and female to complement each other. However, we tend to blame our sexual differences for the problems of the world. ‘The logical solution to our problems is to negate…devalue the body, especially its sexuality.’”
* “When we create we are like God, the creator of all things. ‘The devil is not creative…All he can do is take the good things God created and twist them, distort them, or mock them… By mocking the body and the one-flesh union, he twists their “theo-graphic” nature into something “pornographic.’”
* “There were so many wonderful analogies. For instance: likening what our nuptial sexual union is meant to be with playing the piano. A young child might bang on the keys while an accomplished player would caress them.”

**Angels of God . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .** January 2015 (††††)
 by Mike Aquilina

In his book Angels of God Mike Aquilina shows us that angels are a large part of reality and we may benefit greatly from their service, or ignore them at our peril. Angels are everywhere—as a matter of fact, right by our sides. Forget the sweet-faced cherubs of popular culture, however, and brace yourself for a far more potent reality: powerful heavenly beings who can play a significant role in the personal drama of daily life—your life. Aquilina does a masterful job of explaining the roles of angels throughout salvation history. He reminds us how close our guardian angels are and what we miss out on by neglecting to call on them.

Reader Comments & Favorite Quotes

* “Our guardian angel’s task is to get us to heaven” p. 47
* “The angels want us to do right by our souls. And if we choose to disregard them, and disregard God, then they will try to minimize the damage we do to others.” p. 48
* “But if we sincerely want to do the right thing, the angels can help us. So we should cultivate a devotion to the guardian angels. They’re powerful spiritual beings who want us to succeed at being good. They want us to end up in heaven.” p.53
* This book reminded me of how much the angels meant to me when I was younger.
* The older I get, the closer they seem.
* I love the prayers and poems at the back of the book.
* It’s amazing to know that nations have angels who work among themselves!
* I liked that it made me remember things I had not thought about for a long time...like how often the angels are mentioned in Mass. However I found a couple of places where the author contradicted himself, e.g., he said angels can't be classified and yet he classified them.
* I was grateful for all the Bible references to angels. I often wondered were Principalities and Dominions and Powers and Cherubs, and Archangels, etc. were found in Scripture. And I enjoyed reading again the angel encounters found in the Bible.