RADIANT jog



INSPIRING BOOKS & FILMS 100TH ANNIVERSARY FR. ANDREW APOSTOLI, C.F.R.



FATIMA FOR TODAY The Urgent Marian Message of Hope Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR In this authoritative, up to date book, Fr. Apostoli, foremost Fatima expert, carefully analyzes the Marian apparitions and requests, and amazing miracles that took place in Fatima, and clears up lingering questions about their meaning. He challenges the reader to hear anew the call of Our Lady to prayer and sacrifice in reparation for sin and for the conversion of the world. 16 pages of photos. FATO-P... Sewn Softcover, \$17.95



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Author, Champions of the Rosary



FATIMA MYSTERIES Mary's Message to the Modern Age Grzegorz Gorny and Janusz Rosikon lavishly illustrated over-sized volume with glorious photographs and insights on the whole story of the appari-

conversion of the world and salvation of souls.

THE 13TH DAY - Stylistically beautiful and technically innovative, this acclaimed movie on Fatima uses state-of-the-art digital effects to create stunning images of the visions and the final miracle of the sun that have never before been fully realized on screen. 💯 13D-M... 85 mins, \$19.95

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tions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, perhaps the most important private revelations in Church history. A unique work on Fatima that presents the bigger story in pictures and detailed text of the historical events before, during and after Mary's appearances. It underscores the serious nature of Our Lady's requests for prayer and sacrifice for the

DVD

FATM-H... 8x10 Hardcover, 400 pp, \$34.95



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As the Father loves the Son, So does his Son love you. "Remain in my love, Hear my command, I tell you so your joy may be complete."

A simple word of letters three, Yet packed limitlessly. The secret herein lies, Of a life of serving freely Jesus.

It knows no bounds, And overflows, The fruit of hours spent, Caught up in Wind and Fire, Conversations, actions, gifts, To others.

A full glass brim filled and overflowing, An empty chasm bridged, In Cod's own image bright, Fulfillment in thine own skin, Yourself.

Not a feeling, But a state of being, The heart of happiness. Sometimes veiled to thine own eyes, Hidden in the silence, But glowing round the holy soul, Others see this light, Ethereal.

In this order remember, The solemn promise given, True happiness lies therein, A threefold definition;

Jesus Others You.

POEM BY JACINTA WICK PHOTO BY ANNIE SPRATT-UNSPLAS



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Radiant Joy 2017: Quarterly Periodical

Spreading the Beauty of Christ and His Church. Covering traditional topics of the Catholic Church and applying them to the lives of young, modern women striving to live out their unique calling with style, joy and grace.

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hat hidden impulse drives your actions without you even knowing it? From your latest shopping binge to the trendy new expression that keeps popping out of your mouth in every conversation, your actions spring from a deep-seated human behavior that claims more control than any of us recognize—or would like to admit.

You have been shaped by this impulse since the moment you were born. You learned to eat, to walk, and to speak in this way. Your style, your facial expressions, your tone of voice, and even your friendships are quietly, almost invisibly, imprinted in this way.

The impulse? Imitation. Every one of us is a born imitator. We see this human trait in a 6-week old infant who mirrors her mother's smile for the first time. We see it in the 6-yearold girl who clamors to wear her mother's lipstick. We see it when the 16-year-old girls all show up at the prom in strapless gowns, turning sideways with one hand on a hip in the photos. We see it when young moms find themselves saying the same things that their mothers said to them. We also see that imitation is at the heart of how we learn anything, from the steps of an algebra problem to the proper way to hit a volleyball.

PHOTO BY BROOKE CAGLE-UNSPLASH

As powerful and pervasive as it is, we are largely unconscious of our constant tendency to imitate. But the evidence is everywhere when you stop to consider it. Have you ever found yourself yawning in response to another person's yawn? In this case, it is an uncontrolled reflex. Importantly, we must see that even our desires often stem from imitation. In the sandbox, you were not interested in the pail and shovel until your sister grabbed it. That guy from the varsity baseball team did not seem all that interesting until your best friend developed a crush on him. We simply do not recognize this impulse at work in our daily lives.

However, this tendency is no accident. We are imitators because we are made as an image: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Gen. 1:27)

Christian thinkers have puzzled over the strong human tendency to imitate, and what it might mean. Gil Bailie poses the questions thus in "The Imitative Self":

What can be said of the creature who is made in the image



and likeness of another? Surely this: that this creature can only fulfill its destiny by becoming like someone else.... If we really are made in the image and likeness of God, such a desire, dangerously fickle though it might be, could well function ... as the key to our sanctification.

The key to our sanctification? A startling thought. If this is true, then so is the opposite. What we imitate might also be the road to our ruin. We must be on our guard with the kaleidoscope of cultural influences that we unknowingly imitate; we must each search our conscience for the behaviors and opinions that slip in without our conscious consent.

PHOTO BY FASHIONSTOCK.COM / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

The reach of social media makes the pressure to imitate and conform much more oppressive than ever before in history. We are inundated. We feel compelled to be up-tothe-minute on the latest meme, the latest shoe, the latest politically correct crusade.

No facet of our lives is shielded from the tendency to imitate. Among fashion's top trendsetters, even those who feel themselves individualists are no doubt subscribing to some code: the boho crowd, the Athleta crowd, the couture crowd. We see how fashion trends spread with lightning speed, even when they are objectively ugly. In our daily language, what vulgar expressions creep in because we get so used to hearing them? Our attitudes about moral issues can mirror what is popular rather than holding true to what is right and good. If everyone is doing it, how can it be so wrong?

Behavior, too, is powerfully imitated for good or for ill. Schools see clearly that the "alpha" students set the tone for the entire grade's experience. Nasty bullies are imitated right down the pecking order. The "popular" remain on top even when they deserve no admiration. Sarcasm spreads like a plague of negativity through a class.

That is, unless someone has the courage to step out of the imitation game, reject the oppressive pressure to conform, and offer another model. We cannot say we believe in God when our actions contradict that claim. As our society continues to scorn Christian virtues, it certainly will take courage and commitment not to follow the crowd blindly.

The good news about imitation, however, is that it can be a tremendous force for growing in holiness when we are attentive to our models. We have been given the most perfect human, the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, whose "fiat" at the Annunciation led ultimately to her crowning as Queen of Heaven, Queen of all Saints. She lived her life not just by doing the will of the Father, but by living in the will of the Father. We also have countless saints and martyrs who demonstrate the possibility of overcoming our own human failings by loving God with our whole mind, our whole heart, and our whole soul.

We have a choice. We can immerse ourselves in what is true

and good and beautiful because this is what truly feeds our soul and helps us grow toward the Source of all that is good and true and beautiful. The things that consume our time and attention are the things we grow to love and to imitate, and vice versa.

So, we should repeatedly ask ourselves two questions: First, whom and what are we imitating? Second, what are we offering to the world that is worthy of imitation?

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1-2)

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ARTICLE BY ELISABETH SULLIVAN

Beth is happily married to her college sweetheart and is blessed with three sons and a daughter-in-law. She is the Associate Director of The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, which helps Catholic educators renew their tradition by seeking Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in all things.

The Four Loves and Forever

with Jackie and Bobby Angel

"Real Chastity pushes aside the false masks of prudishness or repressive puritanism, as well as the debasing animalism of our pornified hook-up culture. Chastity reclaims awe for God's creation, especially for the human body and how God is manifested through every inch and curve. Far from repression, chastity is like a white-hot fire that burns with rightly ordered eros and agape intertwined."

~ Jackie and Bobby Angel in "Forever"

PHOTO BY JOSH BECKMAN

What is eros and agape anyway? Jackie Angel and her husband, Bobby, beautifully break down the four types of love defined by the Greeks in their new devotional for married couples, "Forever," as well as everything you could ever think of that pertains to love, chastity, marriage, children, the gift of our bodies and so much more. Every lady needs to read this book. Here, they share with us some relatable examples of the four different loves to get you started:

Storge: Storge is an affection-based love which we can most often see in our family lives. You know when you're mad at your sister or brother or mom or dad, but you still love them/need them anyway? That's storge love.

Philia: This is a friendship love. The greatest type of friendship is one where we have a common aim or goal: for Christian friends, this goal is heaven! So, who are your friends who help you get to heaven? Give them a hug or "thank you" today!

Eros: This is a passion love (not merely sexual) that we feel when something stirs inside us, where we encounter the ache and longing for Beauty, Truth, and Goodness. It can be felt when we experience romance, or a beautiful sunset, or a piece of music/art/film that makes us happy or weepy, or sometimes both (Like the movies "Life is Beautiful"...or "Kung Fu Panda 3").

Agape: The greatest of all the loves, this love is an unconditional, sacrificial love in which we want the ultimate good for the other. It says in Scripture that we only love because God first loved us. So, as He laid His life down for us, who are the people you would lay your life down for in your life?

In "Forever," the Angels describe what happens when all four loves combine-something pretty incredible...

"The 'incarnation' comes from the Latin 'caro,' meaning 'flesh,' so the meaning is literally 'to be made into flesh.' God used the material of his beloved creation—the human body-to become visible and to show us how to love with the fullness of all the loves we've been examining: storge, philia, eros and agape. Jesus experienced all aspects of life through his body: hunger and thirst, joy and pain, comfort and suffering. No doubt he felt storge love for his family, philia love for his apostles. The eros of Christ led him to seek his Father in the intimacy of his prayers, and his agape love led him to the cross.

"Jesus' body was essential to God's plan, 'for the flesh is the hinge of salvation' (CCC 1015). Our bodies are essential as well. We're not disembodied spirits or spiritual beings trapped in the prison of a body. We are our bodies—we are a unique combination of body and soul, and we cannot experience life in any other form. By allowing Christ to be made incarnate in us—through prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist—we learn to live love in all its forms. We learn to love our spouse 'incarnationally' which means we love as Christ would love."



Jackie Francois Angel and Bobby Angel

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