

BOOK REVIEWS

Theology & Spirituality

Apollos: Paul's Partner or Rival?

By Patrick J. Hartin, Liturgical Press, 2009, 136 pp., ISBN 978-0-8146-5263-3, \$11.95 (paper).

Apollos is another book belonging to a series called Paul's Social Network, Brothers and Sisters in Faith, of which Bruce J. Malina is the series editor. This wonderful collection, written by prominent scholars, focuses on significant persons who were part of the Pauline network. Who then, is Apollos, and why is he considered a significant co-worker of Paul? Since references of the man in the New Testament are few and rather brief (1 Cor 1:12; 3:4-6, 21-23; 4:6; 16:2; Acts 18:24-28; Titus 3:13), there is great mystery surrounding his character and his relationship to Paul. To understand who Apollos is, one has to place him within the social and cultural environment of his world, namely, the first-century Mediterranean. Relying on all the social and cultural sciences, the social-scientific approach, which the author aptly applies, provides an understanding of the person of Apollos and significant insight into his world and culture that is very different from our own today. The book contains four chapters paying attention to four main aspects relating to Apollos: his sense of self (Chapter 1); his collectivistic nature (Chapter 2); his connection with Corinth (Chapter 3); and finally, his roots with Alexandria in Egypt (Chapter 4). After having sifted thoroughly through all the sources, the author concludes that there is no evidence that Paul and Apollos were rivals; rather, they were "partners" or "collaborators" working together to form a unified church.

Apollos is truly another wonderful addition to Paul's Social Network series, which scholars as well as students and pastors must have. While it is only 109 pages in length, which a person can almost read in one sitting, the reader will not only gain a full understanding of the mysterious Apollos but also gain amazing historical and cultural insights of the first-century

Mediterranean to interpret other New Testament texts.

vanThanh Nguyen, SVD

The Four Teresas

By Gina Loehr, Servant Books/St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2010, 128 pp., ISBN 978-0-86716-944-7, \$13.99 (paper).

Recently our school had a challenging guest speaker who discussed the amoral culture we live in. During the question and answer period, one high school student passionately and sincerely asked, "But what can we do to change the culture?" There had been lots of chatter and bantering, but after this question everyone fell silent. I'll never forget his answer: "One thing: each of us must strive for personal holiness." Gina Loehr's book, *The Four Teresas*, will help us on our personal journey of holiness. Indeed, it contains informative biographies, but the book is centered on the spiritual life lessons of Saints Theresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, Teresa Benedicta, and Mother Teresa.

The organizing framework of the book is each Teresa's answer to Jesus' greatest commandment: How can we know, love and serve God? The introduction promises, "The four Teresas... are masters and models of living out Christ's command."

The book is effectively organized: each of the four sections contain "Her Life," "Her Lessons," "Living the Lessons," "Ten Ways to be more like the Saint," and "For Reflection." Much prayer and reflection accompanies the author's research. Notes at the end are thorough, based on the Saints' own writings.

Informative yet eminently practical as faith lessons, the author provides an opportunity for reflection but also engagement with the Saint and with God in prayer. *The Four Teresas* can be a wonderful guide for a weekend to four day retreat. If adoration, confession, and Mass were part of the package, souls might be gently but confidently encouraged in lives of holiness.

Mary Rose Collins

The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy

By Emmanuel Hatzidakis, 2nd edition, Orthodox Witness, 2010, 420 pp., ISBN 978-0-9778970-3-2, \$40.00.

I don't usually find it necessary to see second editions reviewed, but I have not seen the first edition of this work reviewed anywhere, and it is a very important and completely different addition to works about the Divine Liturgy. Its audience is described as catechists and instructors, and any Orthodox Christians who want a better understanding of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. This book, which Father Hatzidakis claims is not scholarly, is nevertheless an excellent compendium of commentary taken from patristic and other commentators, plus biblical references from the liturgy.

The book begins with a complete text of the Divine Liturgy with a numerical reference to pages where the commentary is found. Within the commentary, the book's layout becomes a bit busy, but this is because it is jammed with information. The footnotes (of which there are more than 1200, referring to web pages as well as books and journal articles) are in gray boxes at the foot of the pages. Interspersed in red boxes throughout are sections called "Mini Study" and "A Word About." Mini Studies "expound doctrinal, ecclesiological, and moral issues," and "A Word About" provides "expanded commentary on words and actions of the liturgy." The footnotes to these are incorporated into the gray footnote boxes at the bottom. At the end of the book is a 305 title bibliography, indexes of scriptural references, and words and names. As a Catholic librarian, I think this book has great potential for reference use in all seminary libraries and highly recommend it for anyone seeking more information about the Divine Liturgy.

Melody Layton McMahon

