

SPIRITUAL BOOK NEWS

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NOVEMBER 2007 SELECTION



SACRED SPACE

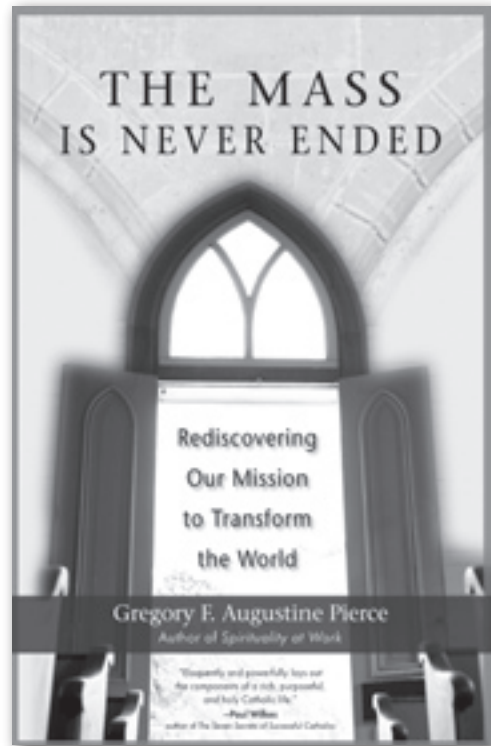
The Prayer Book 2008

Now in its fourth year, the 2008 edition of *Sacred Space: The Prayer Book* offers a practical, portable way to pray for an entire year. Each week, *Sacred Space* presents readers with a new scripturally-based theme. Each day, they are led through a simple six-step process of reflection on the daily scripture readings.

ISBN: 97815947113981 / 384 pages / \$14.95

FEATURED SELECTION

October 2007 Selection



THE MASS IS NEVER ENDED

Rediscovering Our Mission to Transform the World
Gregory F. Augustine Pierce

This is a beautiful, powerful book. Its simplicity and brevity can be deceiving, though. When you begin to realize that you are called to mission, and how the Mass can be celebrated from the perspective of the dismissal—for mission!—your outlook on life will be changed. Gregory Pierce has given the church a real gift in these pages!

STEPHEN BEVANS, S.V.D.

Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

“*I*te, missa est.” “Go, we are sent forth.” Both profound and practical, and at times entertaining, *The Mass Is Never Ended* reminds readers of the meaning of the Mass and urges Catholics not to lose sight of its purpose during our everyday lives. Pierce outlines the basics of a spirituality of work, leaving readers with a renewed appreciation for the beauty and wisdom of the Mass.

ISBN: 9781594710698 / 128 pages / \$10.95



THE MASS IS NEVER ENDED

Rediscovering Our Mission to Transform the World

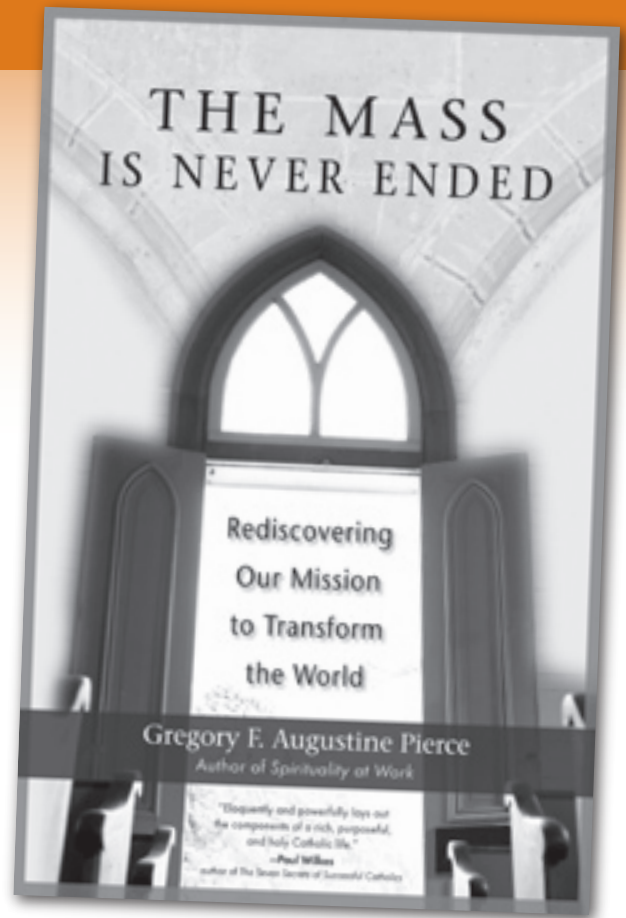
Gregory F. Augustine Pierce

- Mission
- Community
- Spirituality

These three themes are presented in this book as necessary for living a healthy, happy, and holy life. But what does the Mass have to do with mission and community? For some of us Catholics, the Mass is a private exercise in pious worship, detached from much of what happens in our daily lives. It may be an obligation, a routine, a time of calm in our hectic lives, or all of these. For many of us, though, it is not the unifying expression of faith lived out in a community of believers that it is meant to be. Communion is not called individual reception, it is communion, a partaking of the body and blood of Christ that unites us as a community of believers.

The Mass can be a radically countercultural event. This may seem an odd statement to make about being a Christian in such an overwhelmingly Christian nation, but it in many ways it is so. In the Mass we join with others to proclaim a holy mission. We proclaim a primary allegiance to God, and we put the needs of others and the community of believers first. Society tells us to be successful, God tells us to be faithful. Society tells us to plan for the future and take care of ourselves (save for retirement, for a rainy day), but God tells us to trust in him. This is expressed in the Mass, where we are sent out into the world on our mission to do no less than our part to further the reign of God on earth.

This thought-provoking book takes us on a journey through the Mass as we have not experienced it before. Gregory Augustine Pierce presents what for some may be a radical (not politically radical) view of mission, work, and spirituality.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



GREGORY F. AUGUSTINE PIERCE, president and co-publisher of ACTA Publications, is the author or editor of ten books including *Spirituality at Work: 10 Ways to Balance Your Life on the Job*, which has sold over 20,000 copies and won two awards from the Catholic Press Association. He is a former president of the National Center for the Laity, a founder of Business Executives for Economic Justice, and a leader in United Power for Action and Justice. Pierce is a popular national speaker using his sense of humor regarding his own spiritual journey to delight and inspire audiences.

Mr. Pierce graduated first in his class at Maryknoll College in 1969 and is the 2000 recipient of the Hillenbrand Award for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He resides in Chicago, Illinois with his wife, Kathy. They are the parents of three college students.

READER'S GROUP GUIDE

WHEREVER TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED... SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP USE

Use the *Questions for Discussion and Reflection* as you see fit, either in your faith-sharing group, in your personal journaling, or with your spouse or friend. Groups should not neglect their use in journaling; a journal can be a use-

ful tool for those in groups as well as for those reading on their own. Group leaders should have these questions or others ready for group discussion and sharing. All are encouraged to pose their own questions of themselves and others

to make the discussion more meaningful. Deeper faith is always a goal of faith sharing groups—let it be your guide for discussion.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

This book is not just a collection of reflections on the lay spiritual vocation; it asks something of you, the reader. Using the discussion questions at the end of each chapter, you can delve more deeply into your own spiritual journey. Take adequate time to reflect.

As you read, interact with the text: write in a journal, let the reflections enter into your prayer, share with a friend. In addition to the thought-provoking questions included at the end of each chapter, feel free to use the following questions as discussion starters in your group or as idea generators for your journaling.

- What parable-story speaks to you in a profound way? Share this with your group or a friend.
- What is your definition of work? How is your definition different from that of the author or of others in your group?
- How do I see the impact of my work in the world, i.e., what difference does my work make? How is the actual impact of what I do different from what I would like it to be? How has this book shed light on ways I can draw upon the richness of the Catholic tradition and apply it to my everyday work?

Part One: Mission

- Have you discovered your God-given talents? For some of us that is a difficult task, for others it is a bit easier, but for all of us it is a task that takes time and community. What role does the community play in your discernment?
- The Kingdom of God: Monarchies were the dominant political structure at the time of Jesus, and so his followers could relate to the idea of a kingdom in a way that we in the democratic West cannot. What happens if the term kingdom is replaced by another term, such as commonwealth?
- Not every experience of Mass is fulfilling, just as our work is at times not fulfilling. What happens when Mass seems less like a sending forth and more like a series of trials and tribulations?

Part Two: Mass as a Sending Forth

- Read chapter five in which the author walks us through the Mass as viewed through the lens of the Dismissal. How, if at all, has your understanding of the Mass or appreciation of the Dismissal changed?

- The author reminds us that when we receive communion we become the body of Christ. When the Eucharistic minister says, “the Body of Christ,” we respond with “Amen.” Since we become the body of Christ, and we the assembly are the body of Christ here on earth, we might respond instead with “I am.” How could that change our perception of what we are to do upon leaving Mass? Would that response change the emphasis of communion?

Part Three: Spirituality of Work

- Finding meaning in what we do is the work of a lifetime. How do you find meaning in your life now as compared to ten, twenty, or thirty years ago?
- Bearing in mind the author interview, what has happened to you upon reading this book? What is your sense of mission now?
- How complicated does spirituality seem to you? Reflect on your struggles with finding a spirituality or spiritual discipline in light of the author’s straightforward presentation of spirituality.

WEB RESOURCES

These links can be found on our website www.spiritualbookassoc.org

- www.vatican.va—Pope Benedict XVI talks about the importance of the rite of Dismissal in his document “The Sacrament of Charity”. You can download the document from the Vatican’s website.
- www.spiritualityatwork.com—An organization of business professionals committed to the awakening of the soul at work, and the transformation of work and the workplace into arenas where life is nourished.



AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Below are selections from an interview with the author. The complete interview can be found at our website, www.spiritualbookassoc.org. Click on the Spiritual book Associates tab at the top of the page, and go to book detail for *The Mass is Never Ended* where you will find links to author information and the interview.

“Ite, missa est.” translated means “Go, we are sent forth.” Explain how your book grew out of this dismissal rite of the Mass.

“Go, we are sent forth” captures the spirit of the Catholic liturgy as a preparation for the congregation going back out into the world of work, family and community to transform it into a place that is more like the way God would have things, what Jesus called the “kingdom” or the “reign of God”.

What is “the spirituality of work”?

The spirituality of work is a spirituality that can be practiced in the midst of the hustle and bustle of daily life. It is based on the Catholic belief that “God is everywhere,” and that “bidden or not bidden, God is present.”

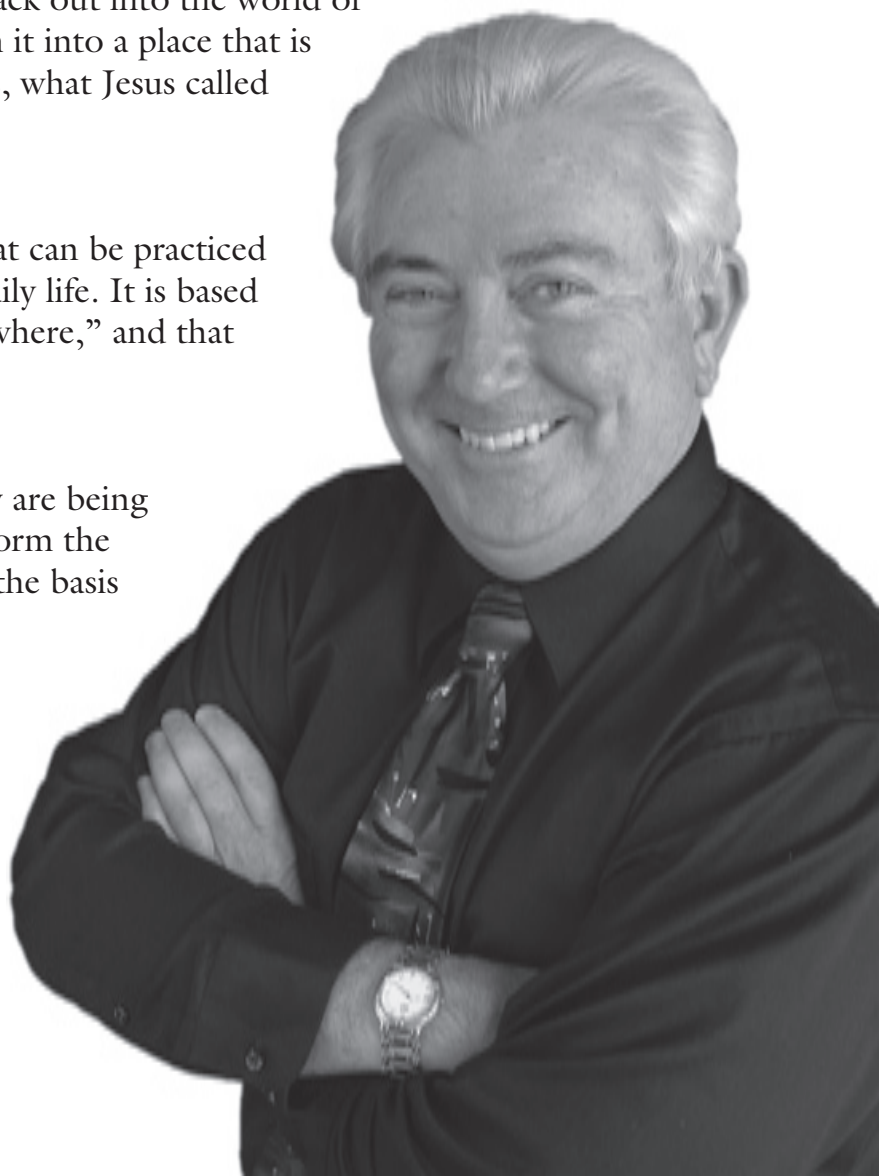
What will happen to those who read this book?

They might see for the first time that they are being sent forth on a mission each day to transform the world and that this effort alone could be the basis for a satisfying spiritual life.

Is this book for liberals or conservatives?

I make no judgments about how to make the world a better place. I leave that to the reader. I merely posit that work in the world is the grist for our spiritual mills and that those who are aware of the presence of God in their workplace must, almost by definition, do their work differently than they would otherwise.

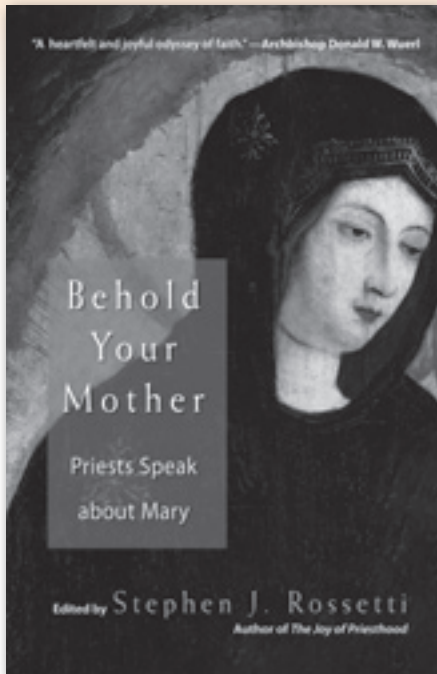
Sign up for Gregory’s e-newsletter by going to www.actapublications.com



If our work—paid or unpaid, fulfilling or not, socially recognized or insignificant—is the primary way we help make the world a better place, then it is by definition important, meaningful and holy.

—From the Introduction

SBA MEMBERS SAVE 20%



The priests who share their own love for the Blessed Mother in this book reveal a spiritual relationship that is both life-giving and inspiring to their readers.

MOST REVEREND WILTON D. GREGORY
Archbishop of Atlanta

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER

Priests Speak About Mary

Edited by **Stephen J. Rossetti**

Foreword by **Archbishop Donald Wuerl**

This gem of a book invites all the Catholic faithful, but especially priests, to find Jesus more personally through a renewed love of his Mother.

J. AUGUSTINE DI NOIA, O.P.

Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, the best-selling author of the influential *Joy of Priesthood*, has assembled fascinating reflections from nine esteemed fellow priests who share how their devotion to the Blessed Mother has supported their life and ministry. Though overlooked in recent times, devotion to the Blessed Mother has long been a foundational part of priestly spirituality. *Behold Your Mother* seeks to renew this practice for both younger clergy and those with years of priestly life. From stories of childhood devotion to the Blessed Mother to personal encounters with some of the great spiritual figures from recent times, these essays have both a personal and practical character that priests—and the laity as well—will deeply appreciate.

ISBN: 9781594710285 / 160 pages / \$14.95

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE

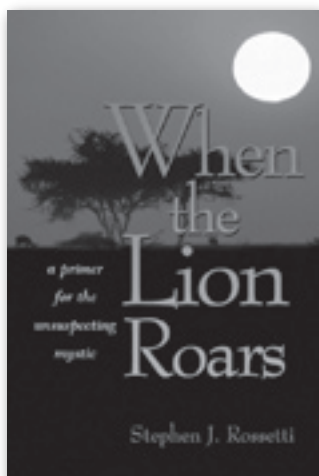
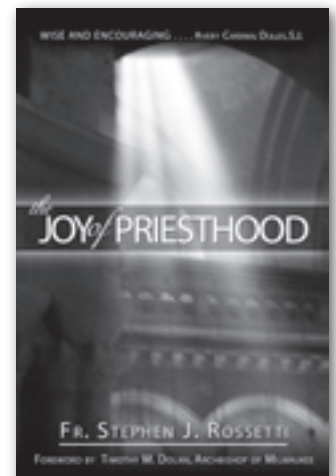
- Louis Cameli
- Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.
- Fernando Ferrarese
- Anthony Figueiredo
- Gerald O'Collins, S.J.
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- Walter R. Rossi
- Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli
- Peter Vaghi

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM STEPHEN J. ROSSETTI

THE JOY OF PRIESTHOOD

Invites priests to recognize the dignity of their calling through honest and psychologically based self-assessment—because happiness in the priesthood flows from both wholeness and holiness. A Catholic bestseller.

ISBN: 9781594710667 / 224 pages / \$15.95



WHEN THE LION ROARS

A Primer for the Unsuspecting Mystic

In a series of practical, readable chapters, Rossetti addresses the many questions and concerns that arise on the path to deeper prayer. He draws carefully from the wisdom of scripture and uses his broad knowledge of mystical writers—from the Desert Fathers to Thérèse of Lisieux—to guide us on a road we may never have expected to take.

ISBN: 9780877939856 / 160 pages / \$11.95



