The Amazon Synod, which occurred in Rome in October 2019, focused on the needs of the Amazon region—needs that are at once social, cultural, ecological, and pastoral. And yet for many observers, it was evident that this regional assembly was addressing issues of relevance for the wider church. Depending on the critical narratives at play, the Synod aroused powerful hopes as well as fears.

This volume offers an essential guide to this historic gathering, featuring Querida Amazonia, Pope Francis’s Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, as well as the actual Final Document of the Synod, which the Pope has commended for study and reflection by the whole church.

In a fascinating introduction, Christopher Lamb, Rome correspondent for The Tablet (UK) provides a journalistic review of the lead-up to the Synod, an account of what transpired, and an analysis of the controversies at play. Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, Co-Special Secretary of the Pan-Amazon Synod, provides an authoritative commentary on Querida Amazonia and the Final Document, addressing their particular meaning for the Amazon region and their relevance for the church as a whole.

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RELIGION / Christian Ministry / Evangelism
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ALSO OF INTEREST
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“Let us imagine a holiness with Amazonian features, called to challenge the universal Church.”
—Pope Francis, Querida Amazonia
Dear Friends,

With this Fall catalog we continue to mark our 50th anniversary year—though, sadly, it has not been a season of celebration. As of this writing the outcome of the global pandemic, which closed our warehouse and sent our staff working from home, remains unknown. To all our loyal readers, we extend our prayers, hoping you are safe and well, and our condolences to all who have suffered loss.

The name of Orbis, from the Latin for “world,” signaled the founding mission of our house to address the global dimensions of Christian faith—particularly from the perspective of the poor and those on the “margins.” Now, in this season, that mission assumes an urgent and poignant meaning.

But I am glad that several new titles speak directly to these times. Chief among them is Rabbi Arthur Waskow’s Dancing in God’s Earthquake, a reflection on the “earthquakes” that turn our world upside down, and how such events can become occasions for rebirth and renewal. In Hunger for Hope, Sr. Simone Campbell, famous for her work with “Nuns on the Bus,” describes the spiritual roots of our social problems, and the practices that can sustain a life-time of hope and struggle. In Letters of Tribulation, Pope Francis offers principles of discernment that can enable us to maintain our faith and hope in times of discouragement. In O Death, Where Is Thy Sting? Joe Hoover, SJ, offers timely meditations on the experience and meaning of suffering. In this catalog we are also reprising a number of important Spring titles, effectively orphaned during the great shut-down.

Nearly all our books promote the spirit of global solidarity, commitment to the common good, and hope for a just and sustainable world. Through our present “earthquake,” may these principles endure and find renewal.

Blessings,

Robert Ellsberg
Publisher
The chaotic individualism of these times demands a prayer practice that summons a communal prophetic action with those who are marginalized in our fractured economic system and broken world. Hunger for Hope explores the quest for a justice that works for all and explores what it means to be “holy” in today’s world.

Simone Campbell, SSS, is the executive director of NETWORK, a nonprofit Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, DC. In 2012, she organized NETWORK’s “Nuns on the Bus” campaign that has attracted an avalanche of media attention in the United States and other parts of the world. Sister Simone, who in 1978 became an attorney and founded a community law center that served the legal needs of the working poor, is a long-standing member of the Sisters of Social Service.

SEPTEMBER

160pp., 5¼ x 8¼
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ALSO OF INTEREST

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This book was written before the coronavirus pandemic, yet, as Rabbi Waskow writes in a special preface, “this specific ‘earthquake’ among all the earthquakes in our lives . . . is ever-present, even if invisible and inaudible.” In fact, his book reflects on the role of “earthquakes”—literal and metaphorical: times like the present crisis when history trembles beneath our feet. Such times may overturn empires, structures of power, and the stability of our personal lives. But they may also become the fertile ground from which renewal and new life come, especially if we can learn to “dance”—to imagine and live out new possibilities—in the midst of this disruption.

Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow, PhD, is the founder and director of The Shalom Center (Philadelphia), a prophetic voice in Jewish, multireligious, and American life that brings Jewish and other spiritual thought and practice to bear on seeking peace, pursuing justice, healing the earth, and celebrating community. He is the author of many books, including Godwrestling, Seasons of Our Joy, and These Holy Sparks: The Rebirth of the Jewish People. In 2014 he was honored by T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights with their first Lifetime Achievement Award as a “Human Rights Hero.”

**DANCING IN GOD’S EARTHQUAKE**

The Coming Transformation of Religion

Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow

“A wonderful book! Rabbi Arthur Waskow helps us trace our path back to our spiritual home.”

—Gloria Steinem

“Calls us to reach down deep in our moral and religious traditions and have a grownup conversation about the response our present crisis requires.”

—William J. Barber, II, Co-Chair of the Poor People’s Campaign

“A book that warms both heart and mind.”

—Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service

OCTOBER

232pp., 5¼ x 8¼

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ALSO OF INTEREST

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MYSTICS IN ACTION
Twelve Saints for Today
Bruce G. Epperly

Journey with a dozen 20th-century religious figures— including Albert Schweitzer, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Simone Weil, Rufus Jones, Dag Hammarskjöld, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Joshua Heschel, Peace Pilgrim, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and Thich Nhat Hanh, and see how a deep spirituality and commitment to justice can change the world.

Here are the stories of twelve activist mystics who awaken us to our own calling as mystics, people who encounter God in life-changing ways, and then go out to change the world. The author provides spiritual practices to promote our own experiences of holistic, “heavenly minded, and earthly good” spirituality. The future of the world depends on the commitments of mystics who are “earthly good,” who care for the earth and its peoples and seek to do, as St. Teresa of Calcutta counsels, something beautiful for God.

Bruce G. Epperly is senior pastor of South Congregational Church, Centerville, MA, and a professor in the doctoral program of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. A pastor, theologian, and spiritual guide, he has written over fifty books on theology, spirituality, scripture, healing and wholeness, and ministerial excellence. He lives on Cape Cod with his wife and his two young grandchildren.

DECEMBER

176pp., index, 5½ x 8¼
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RELIGION / Christianity / Saints & Sainthood

ALSO OF INTEREST
A Living Gospel: Reading God’s Story in Holy Lives
978-1-62698-325-0
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**O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?**

**A Meditation on Suffering**

Joe Hoover

“Sometimes the goodness of God, the order of the universe and the joy of any given life appears to be a tightrope made of braided grass: it could disintegrate at any moment.”

---

*O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?* employs stories from unique, compelling angles on everything from philosophy and theology to art, theatre, sports, and social justice as it grapples with suffering. It is a deep exploration of the bleakest and most fearful questions around God’s presence in human suffering and death.

The author creatively weaves together meditations on the poor of El Salvador, the Pine Ridge reservation, the Toronto L’Arche community, the attacks of September 11, the death of the author’s own brother at a young age, and various other encounters. It confronts, denies, and reclaims theology, philosophy, art, and personal stories to grapple with suffering. God wins in the end, yes, but not so easily.

**Joe Hoover** is a Jesuit brother of the Midwest province. He works as an actor, playwright, and poetry editor at America Media and teaches drama at Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, a middle school in Crown Heights, New York. Br. Hoover has a degree in journalism from Marquette University and graduate degrees in theology from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, and in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago. He has had plays produced in Omaha and New York and has acted in theatre productions nationwide.

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**DECEMBER**

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This introduction to the theological issues of Christian mysticism explains the primary practices necessary to experience mystical consciousness. *Deep Calls to Deep* explores the metaphors and images found in scripture and the contemplative tradition that can enliven the spiritual imagination, so that readers can appreciate Christian mysticism and the necessary practices to cultivate mystical consciousness for themselves.

**Chad Thralls** is a teaching fellow at Seton Hall University. For the past nine years, he has also taught courses in Christian Spirituality through Fordham University’s Graduate School of Religion. He completed his doctoral work in Christian Spirituality at the Catholic University of America. He lives in New York City.

**NOVEMBER**

192pp., 5 x 7¼

*Deep Calls to Deep*

**$18 softcover**

ISBN 978-1-62698-398-4

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**ALSO OF INTEREST**

*Ruth Burrows: Essential Writings*

978-1-62698-312-0

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RE-ENCHANTING THE EARTH
Why AI Needs Religion
Ilia Delio

“Ilia Delio has harnessed the most potent progressive religious vision of the recent past—that of Teilhard de Chardin—to the emerging secular trends of trans- and post-humanism, which equally promise to radically transform our sense of being in the world.”
—Steve Fuller, author, Humanity 2.0

In this bold new work, Ilia Delio takes up the challenge of devising a rapprochement between science and religion. Building on the work of the French Jesuit and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, she focuses particular attention on the role of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, which, she argues, represents the latest extension of human evolution. This has implications not only for science but for religion. If the “first axial age” gave rise to the great world religions, she sees us now on the cusp of a “second axial age,” in which AI, oriented by new religious sensibilities, can bring about an ecological re-enchantment of the earth.

Ilia Delio, OSF, a Franciscan Sister of Washington, DC, holds the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University and founder of the Omega Center. Her many books include Christ in Evolution, The Emergent Christ, The Unbearable Wholeness of Being, and Birth of a Dancing Star: My Journey from Cradle Catholic to Cyborg Christian (all Orbis).

SEPTEMBER
264pp., index, 5⅜ x 8¼
$26 softcover
ISBN 978-1-62698-382-3

RELIGION / Religion & Science
RELIGION / Philosophy
RELIGION / Christianity / General

ALSO OF INTEREST
Birth of a Dancing Star
978-1-62698-347-2
$24 softcover
Howard Thurman (1899-1981), one of the leading religious thinkers of 20th-century America, was a mentor to the leaders of the civil rights movement, and a mystic who pioneered influential innovations in worship and spirituality. Thurman devised a way of preaching to a congregation that sought “support, strength, and guidance” using what he called a “sermon series,” a group of sermons organized around a common theme. Walking with God will assemble the best of Thurman’s “sermon series,” all previously unpublished.

This volume begins with Thurman’s series on “Man and the Moral Struggle,” offering sketches of individuals from history and literature (from Albert Schweitzer to Melville’s Moby Dick) involved in life-transforming “moral struggles” in which “at stake is the ultimate destiny” of their lives. In “The Message of the Prophets” he examines the great biblical prophets, whose mission and message challenge our own time as much as their own.

Walter Earl Fluker, senior editor of the Papers of Howard Washington Thurman and director of the Howard Thurman Papers Project, is Professor Emeritus of Ethical Leadership at Boston University and Dean’s Professor of Spirituality, Ethics and Leadership at Candler School of Theology. Peter Eisenstadt, the associate editor of the Papers of Howard Washington Thurman, is the author of Against the Hounds of Hell: A Life of Howard Thurman.
A BLACK THEOLOGY OF LIBERATION
50th Anniversary Edition
James H. Cone
Introduction by Peter J. Paris
Afterword by Kelly Brown Douglas

"Any message that is not related to the liberation of the poor in a society is not Christ’s message. Any theology that is indifferent to the theme of liberation is not Christian theology."

With the publication of his two early works, Black Theology & Black Power (1969) and A Black Theology of Liberation (1970), James Cone emerged as one of the most creative and provocative theological voices in North America. These books, which offered a searing indictment of white theology and society, introduced a radical presentation of the Christian message for our time.

Combining the visions of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., Cone offered a fundamental reappraisal of Christianity from the perspective of the oppressed black community in North America. Fifty years later, in the era of Black Lives Matter, his work remains as timely and powerful as ever.

James H. Cone (1938-2018) was the Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary. His many books include God of the Oppressed, Martin & Malcolm & America, and The Cross and the Lynching Tree, which received the 2018 Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

NOVEMBER

208pp., 5¾ x 8¼
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RELIGION / Theology
SOCIAL SCIENCE / Discrimination & Race Relations

ALSO OF INTEREST
The Cross and the Lynching Tree
978-1-62698-005-1
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In 1987, an Argentinean Jesuit, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, (now better known as Pope Francis) published a small collection of letters by Jesuit Superiors General from the eighteenth century—a time of grave suffering for the Society of Jesus, as it faced suppression by the Vatican. These documents outline a spiritual path for the church as a whole in times of “confusion and tribulation,” focusing especially on the practice of discernment. Pope Francis has many times recommended this little volume, which also sheds light on his own manner of coping with divisive criticism.

Now, with the cooperation of Jesuit colleagues, he has authorized a new edition, to which are added his reflections on a contemporary situation of extraordinary tribulation for the people of God: namely, the scandal of sexual abuse. In these letters to the bishops and the people of God in Chile, the pope offers some of his most profound reckoning with this scandal.

Antonio Spadaro, SJ, an Italian Jesuit, is editor-in-chief of the Jesuit-affiliated journal La Civiltà Cattolica. Diego Fares, SJ, is an Argentinean Jesuit and a member of the editorial board of La Civiltà Cattolica.

OCTOBER

176pp., 5¾ x 8¼
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RELIGION / Christianity / Catholic
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LETTERS OF TRIBULATION
Pope Francis
Edited by Antonio Spadaro, SJ and Diego Fares, SJ

“Against any temptation of confusion and defeatism, it is good to return to feel the paternal spirit of those who preceded us and that animates these Letters. They teach us to choose consolation in moments of greatest desolation.” —Pope Francis

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Outsider: Pope Francis and His Battle to Reform the Church
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The Gospel of Mark is a pastoral commentary on the Gospel by Pope Francis, drawn from his homilies, writings, and speeches since he was elected pope. Like the earlier volume, The Gospel of Matthew, the purpose of this collection is to make the heart burn again as readers meet Jesus and discover that hidden treasure in the individual lines or words of the Gospel. These pages are intended not simply for study or preaching, but simply for letting ourselves be guided by Francis, a master of prayerful silence, so that we may embrace a simple and living intimacy with Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, is the 266th Pope of the Catholic Church.
Belonging takes the reader through decades of social change and church life. Frank Butler has been an eyewitness to ecclesiastical power struggles over church reform, and later, a trusted advisor to some of the largest Catholic foundations in the world.

The author’s deep faith, reformist instincts, and unique leadership experience provide an honest, critical, and still hope-filled look at his church today. Belonging leaves readers hopeful that connection to a faith community, despite the disillusioning failures of its leadership, can lead to a deepened sense of responsibility and purposeful action.

Frank J. Butler held responsibilities for one of the largest grassroots consultations on Catholicism ever undertaken by church leaders in the United States: the NCCB Call to Action Program. He holds degrees from the University of San Francisco and the Catholic University of America, where he received his doctorate in theology. A founding board member of Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) and The Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, he currently serves on the board of the National Catholic Reporter. He lives with his wife in Washington, DC.

OCTOBER

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ALSO OF INTEREST

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A Biography of Theresa Kane, RSM
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DIGNITY AND JUSTICE
Welcoming the Stranger at Our Border
Linda Dakin-Grimm

“Linda Dakin-Grimm brings the careful analysis of a lawyer and the theological sensitivity of the social ethicist to our labyrinthine immigration legislation. Her timely book combines heart-breaking stories of those seeking asylum with reviews of past U.S. exploitation of Central American countries and Church teaching on immigration, not just of Pope Francis but also of his predecessors.”

—Thomas P. Rausch, SJ,
Loyola Marymount University

Dignity and Justice describes the life-and-death challenges migrants face on their journeys, and some of their continuing struggles, even after they arrive in the United States. The author presents a proposal for “comprehensive immigration reform” and suggests ways that ordinary people can participate in solving this difficult issue.

Linda Dakin-Grimm is admitted to practice law in California, New York, and Washington DC. Since 2015, she has exclusively represented children and families pro bono in immigration proceedings. She is a member of the Southern California Task Force on Immigration. Ms. Dakin-Grimm obtained a JD from Harvard Law School and an MA in Theology from Loyola Marymount University. She lives with her husband in Los Angeles, California.

SEPTEMBER

208pp., index 6 x 9¼

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ISBN 978-1-62698-381-6

RELIGION / General
RELIGION / Christian Living / Social Issues
RELIGION / Religion, Politics & State

ALSO OF INTEREST

A Stranger and You Welcomed Me:
A Call to Mercy and Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees
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13
This moment in religious life is generating interest and energy around how congregations can adapt to what is being asked of them today in the cries of the world and cries of the earth. In response, this book brings together God’s call, the cries of the world, and charisms in consecrated life in a way that dynamically engages the vows, prayer, community, and ministry for the particular time and contexts in which we live. The book serves as a valuable theological and pastoral resource for the needed conversion, transformation, and revitalization needed in consecrated life today.

Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, is director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life and associate professor of theological ethics at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago. She is author of Social Analysis for the 21st Century: Faith and Action toward a Socially Conscious Spirituality (Orbis 2015) and co-editor with Roger Schroeder, SVD, of Engaging Our Diversity: Interculturality and Consecrated Life Today (Orbis 2020).

AUGUST

248pp., index, 6 x 9¼
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ALSO OF INTEREST
Engaging Our Diversity: Interculturality and Consecrated Life Today
978-1-62698-374-8
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CREATION’S WISDOM
Spiritual Practice and Climate Change
Daniel Wolpert

“The Five Wisdom teaching sees the five elements—space, water, earth, fire, and air—not just as physical elements but as holistic expressions of psychological and spiritual realities, what Christians understand as the attributes of God . . . . This wisdom, or spiritual energy, is available to everyone and unites everyone as it flows, much like the divine breath, through time and space.”

Creation’s Wisdom speaks to the need for a spirituality during a time of massive climate change, crisis, and disruption. Using Christian scripture and theology through the lens of modern science, the book explores the concept of the Tibetan Five Wisdoms teaching to address such questions as: What is a Christian spirituality that speaks to the needs of people in this era? What practices can guide us? What perspective can help us? The answers lie in the elements of creation.

Daniel Wolpert, a healer and student of the spiritual life, worked as a research scientist, psychologist, spiritual director, farmer, and teacher, before earning his Masters of Divinity degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Co-founder and Executive Director of the Minnesota Institute of Contemplation and Healing (MICAH), he has taught in the fields of psychology and spiritual formation internationally. He has also played a key role in developing environments for contemplation and spiritual leadership, helping to build or restore monasteries, theological schools, and retreat centers across North America. He lives in Minnesota.

SEPTEMBER
184pp., 5¾ x 8¼
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RELIGION / Spirituality
RELIGION / Comparative Religion

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On Care for Our Common Home: Laudato Si’
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Against the background of the Catholic Church’s global organizations and activities in interreligious dialogue, this book focuses on recent Roman Catholic engagement with other religious traditions in the United States, and the significance of this experience of religious pluralism for Christian theology. Each relationship has a distinctive set of challenges, problems, and opportunities. In each relationship, Christians have come to new insights into their scriptures, their traditions, their practices and beliefs. Each relationship has implications for other interreligious relationships and for Christian identity.

Leo D. Lefebure is Matteo Ricci, SJ, Professor of Theology at Georgetown University and a Berkley Center faculty fellow. A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, his authored books include *The Buddha and the Christ; Revelation, the Religions, and Violence*; and *“True and Holy”: Christian Scripture and Other Religions*.

**TRANSFORMING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS**
Catholic Responses to Religious Pluralism in the United States

Leo D. Lefebure
Foreword by Peter C. Phan

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Laura A. Stivers is professor of ethics and dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Dominican University of California. She holds a doctorate in Christian ethics and social theory from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Most of her scholarship has focused on economic and environmental ethics. She is co-author of Earth Ethics: A Case-Method Approach.

James B. Martin-Schramm is professor of religion and director of the Center for Sustainable Communities at Luther College in Decorah, IA. An ordained member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America he holds a doctorate in Christian ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He is co-author of Earth Ethics: A Case-Method Approach and Christian Environmental Ethics: A Case Method Approach.

OCTOBER

352pp., 6 x 9¼
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RELIGION / Christian Theology / Ethics
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ALSO OF INTEREST
Earth Ethics: A Case-Method Approach
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A former president of one of America’s greatest colleges proposes a model for moral leadership for today. In offering many examples of how moral leaders act, Robert Michael Franklin shows how readers in any context can discover and foster those qualities in themselves, while inviting others to join them in solving the nation’s most pressing problems.

Robert Michael Franklin, currently the James T. and Berta R. Laney Professor in Moral Leadership at Emory University, is President Emeritus of Morehouse College, Atlanta, and former Director of the Interfaith Religion Department at the Chautauqua Institution. His books include Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities (2007), Another Day’s Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis (1997), Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought (1990).

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Robert Michael Franklin

“There is no one more adept at stimulating critical conversations about pressing issues than Robert Franklin. His ideas and the ideals to which he invites the reader on moral leadership represent a clarion call for the times on a topic needed perhaps now more than ever.”  
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President  
Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY

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—Cornel West, Harvard University

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The Outsider
Pope Francis and His Battle to Reform the Catholic Church
Christopher Lamb

“The Outsider is everything Christopher Lamb’s readers have come to know him for . . . . Dispassionate, but never detached, reminding his reader through judicious Gospel quotes what’s really at stake, Lamb’s survey of Francis’s reforms and his colorful opponents is hard to beat.”

—Austen Ivereigh, author, Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and his Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church

Christopher Lamb is the Rome Correspondent for The Tablet, (UK), and a regular contributor to the BBC and La Stampa’s “Vatican Insider.” He has lived in Rome for the past four years, covering Pope Francis and the Vatican.

Writing Straight with Crooked Lines
A Memoir
Jim Forest

“A beautiful, heartfelt and inspiring memoir from one of the most significant Christian peacemakers and spiritual writers of our time.”

—James Martin, SJ, author, Jesus: A Pilgrimage

The story of the author’s lifetime in the service of Christ’s peace and of the extraordinary companions—including Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Daniel Berrigan and Thich Nhat Hanh he met along the way.

Jim Forest is the author of many books, including All is Grace: A Biography of Dorothy Day, Living with Wisdom: A Life of Thomas Merton, and At Play in the Lions’ Den: A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan.
PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

THE WAY OF SUFFERING
Readings for an Enlightened Life

Michael Leach, James T. Keane, and Doris Goodnough, Editors

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Michael Leach is Publisher Emeritus of Orbis Books and author and editor of many books, including Soul Seeing: Light, Love, Forgiveness.

James T. Keane is Senior Editor at America.

Doris Goodnough is Permissions Coordinator for Orbis Books.

AVAILABLE
224pp., 5 x 7¼
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WHOLENESS AND HOLINESS
How to be Sane, Spiritual, and Saintly

David Richo

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—Ilia Delio, OSF, Villanova University

David Richo, Ph.D., is psychotherapist, writer, and workshop leader at a variety of places including Esalen, San Damiano, and Spirit Rock Buddhist Center. He combines psychological, mythic, and spiritual perspectives in his work. Dave shares his time between Santa Barbara and San Francisco, California. His website is davericho.com.

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