

## 2018 Book Award Winners

### B01: POPULAR PRESENTATION OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

#### First Place

*Why I Am Catholic (and You Should Be Too)* by Brandon Vogt, Ave Maria Press

Clear and concise, this book does exactly what its title promises: explain why one would choose to become a Catholic. Without triumphalism, and with charity toward other faith traditions, the author gives intelligent and cogent reasons why the Catholic Church is the true Church while telling the story of his own journey to Catholicism. Perfect for the category--a winner.

#### Second Place

*Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the Catholic Church* by Chris Lowney, Rowman & Littlefield

Author Chris Lowney's enthusiasm practically jumps off the pages of this book--despite the fact that he, like several other authors in this category, takes note of the serious challenges currently facing the Catholic Church. Lowney offers a plan for revitalizing the Church without letting it become a recipe; he acknowledges that some of his suggestions may not work at all times and places but encourages readers to act like good business leaders, learn from their failures, and try their own ideas. The book is encouraging at a time when many Catholics need encouragement.

#### Third Place

*Praying the Rosary Like Never Before: Encounter the Wonder of Heaven and Earth* by Edward Sri, Franciscan Media

Many Catholics may feel they've "been there, done that," when it comes to the rosary, but author Edward Sri offers a range of information, ideas and techniques to make this very Catholic prayer a lively part of one's spirituality. Dr. Sri offers scholarship for the scholarly and simplicity for the simple, all in a friendly and highly accessible package.

#### Honorable Mentions

*Spiritual Direction: A Beginner's Guide* by Richard G. Malloy, Orbis Books

| *Our Lady of Fatima: 100 Years of Stories, Prayers, and Devotions* by Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle, freelance writer

## **B02a: SPIRITUALITY: Soft Cover**

### **First Place**

I Live, No Longer I: Paul's Spirituality of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy by Laura Reece Hogan, Wipf And Stock

*Informed by an impressive command of the academic literature about Pauline writings, this is a vital, spiritually rich meditation on suffering. The heart of this wonderful book is an extended exegesis of the Philippians Christ hymn, and how the pattern of Christ's emptying (kenosis), being with us (enosis) and transformation (theosis) can inform our suffering. Hogan offers a Biblical-based pastoral theology of hope, well illustrated with historical and personal examples, that will encourage us to enter the paradox of suffering that sustained St. Paul. It is a beautifully written book informed by both psychological and spiritual intelligence.*

### **Second Place**

Vesper Time: The Spiritual Practice of Growing Older by Frank J. Cunningham, Orbis Books

*There are books on aging that purport to tell people how to use spiritual practices to navigate the vicissitudes of aging. Frank Cunningham's wise book does something different and more important: he offers us a beautifully written meditation on aging as a spiritual practice. Writing in a comfortable and accessible style, Cunningham offers gentle explorations of memory, intimacy, diminishment, gratitude and acceptance. The book is modest but wise, humble and heartening.*

### **Third Place**

God's Patient Pursuit of My Soul by Chris Manion, Redemption Press

*Chris Manion, a wife, mother, successful businesswoman, and active Catholic, has written a beautiful spiritual autobiography. She writes with awe about her contemplative life and the fruit of many years of dedicated spiritual practice. She charts the powerful experiences that began with her practice of Centering Prayer, always making it clear that anything that happens in the spiritual life is at God's initiative. She shows "God's patient pursuit" of her soul but also her own generous response to that love. It is a book that will give confidence to many seekers, but especially to lay contemplatives who suffer from a dearth of role models.*

### **Honorable Mentions**

The World as Sacrament by Michael P. Plekon, Liturgical Press

Fruitful Discipleship Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World by Sherry A. Weddell, Our Sunday Visitor

## **B02b: SPIRITUALITY: Hard Cover**

### **First Place**

I Live, No Longer I: Paul's Spirituality of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy by Laura Reece Hogan, Wipf And Stock

*We live in a society of ongoing struggles with cancer and various other diseases. This book would be a help to those many caretakers, religious, and medical workers who deal with these issues on a daily basis. This book could be used for both study and meditation.*

### **Second Place**

What Does It All Mean?: A Guide to Being More Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving by Richard Leonard, SJ, Paulist Press

*The task of our lives is to recognize our goodness and then attempt to live a little better. This book offers a pathway to meditating on this journey to find the meaning of our life. This would be a beneficial book for anyone struggling to find their way or for those who try to bring clarity to others about the purpose of their particular life.*

### **Third Place**

Do You Know What You're Doing, God? by Louis DeThomasis, FSC, ACTA Publications

*This book challenges us to keep asking God the questions that we need answered about why do we exist. What is the purpose of us being here? The book is a small meditation on various aspects of the journey of God with us. It would be a helpful book for personal spiritual reading.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Waiting with Purpose by Jeannie Ewing, En Route Books and Media, LLC

*The quote from the Hebrew Scriptures: "Be Patient and wait on the Lord" is very relevant to this book. The author leads us to discover the hidden spiritual jewel in the task of waiting. This is a good spiritual reading book for all those who wonder and wait.*

## **B03: THEOLOGY**

### **First Place**

I Live, No Longer I: Paul's Spirituality of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy by Laura Reece Hogan, Wipf And Stock

*This book is elegantly written with brilliant exegesis and beautiful pastoral spirituality. It appeals to academics yet is approachable to all, in a presentation of Saint Paul's spirituality suffering, joy and transformation. It offers both intellectual insights and spiritual inspiration. The author crafts a gorgeous book that describes one of the most essential Christian doctrines—the Paschal mystery.*

## **Second Place**

Incarnate Grace: Perspectives on the Ministry of Catholic Health Care by Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D, Catholic Health Association

*The opening line from the foreword of this book, written by Bishop Robert Lynch, provides an insight into why this is the second place winner of the 2017 CPA Book Award: "There are few intersections in church life where ecclesial polity and policy, doctrine and discussion, and practice and performance converge than Catholic health care in the present moment." Simply stated, this book is needed. There are three reasons to award this book: The first is the writing. This book is a compilation of well crafted and well sourced essays by renowned theologians. The editor involved the best of best in each subject area. Each essay briefly yet thoroughly discusses a theological concept intrinsic to Catholic Health Care. The writing is clear, concise and compelling! The second is the format. The book is very well structured and the logical sequencing of the material makes great sense to the reader. Each chapter is prefaced by a summary and is followed by discussion questions that take the reader deeper into the content. This book would be useful in the classroom, as a professional development seminar, as well as for private reading. The third reason is layout and the graphic design. The book is extremely visually appealing. The color reproductions of the Saint John's Bible give the book a vibrancy and invite the reader's gaze. The layout provides enough white space for the reader's contemplation.*

## **Third Place**

Mary on the Eve of the Second Vatican Council by John C. Cavadini and Danielle M. Peters, University of Notre Dame Press

*This is an excellent Mariology for our time. This book is a compilation of articles written by Catholic theologians, each contributing to an historical theological understanding of Mary leading to and following the Second Vatican Council. This book needed to be written to provide a Mariology for contemporary scholars and students. There are numerous devotional books on Mary, but so few academic books that review and advance the theology of the Mother of God.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

Born from Lament: The Theology and Politics of Hope in Africa by Emmanuel Katongole, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

The Unmoored God: Believing in a Time of Dislocation by Paul G. Crowley, SJ, Orbis Books

## **B04a: SCRIPTURE: Popular Studies**

### **First Place**

I Live, No Longer I: Paul's Spirituality of Suffering, Transformation, and Joy by Laura Reece Hogan, Wipf And Stock

*In the Foreword of the book, Donald Senior, states that Laura Hogan's focus of the work is what Paul's theology means now. Hogan presents an in-depth study of Paul's epistles in which he addresses the meaning of suffering and its connection to God and each other. The author states Paul's answer in the Letter to the Philippians expressed as moments, kenosis, enosis and theosis (ie. Moments of loss, moments of experiencing community, moments of transformative union with God). Laura Hogan encourages the reader to participate in these moments in ones life to experience union with God, one another, and divine joy. Paul, an authentic teacher from the first century encouraged his followers to imitate, mimesis, Christ. To pattern ones words, actions, life on Christ. The author gives personal and recent contemporary examples of persons who have lived the patterning of Christ. Laura Hogan, a Third Order Carmelite, mentions Therese of Lisieux, the "little bird" who learned to soar like an eagle as she lived this theology. This book is a gift to contemporary Christians who hope to find solutions in accepting the cross and sufferings of life as moments of God's transformative presence.*

### **Second Place**

The Cross in Contexts: Suffering and Redemption in Palestine by Mitri Raheb, Suzanne Watts Henderson, Orbis Books

*This profound book written by a Palestinian theologian, Mitri Raheb from Bethlehem, and a New Testament, Scholar Suzanne Henderson from the United States, explore the meaning of the crucifixion in the light of both the 1st and 21st century, Palestinian context, and the ongoing Iranian and Palestinian context. The author documents present-day Palestinian conflict with scriptural references from the prophets and the life of Jesus to demonstrate the cosmic struggle with evil. The Palestinians are presently living out the power of Christ redemption. In the Gospels, the power of Jesus reconciling love renews the cosmos. In the crucifixion of the Lord, the ancestors of the Palestinians found hope in the life giving power of God. So, too, present-day people find hope in reconciling love through the prophets and the life of Jesus. The dialogue of the first-century Palestinian and Palestinians of today as is demonstrated in The Cross in Contexts reveals the cross lies in listening to the cries of the crushed and marginalized. This is truly a story of suffering and redemption in Palestine.*

### **Third Place**

Jesus Approaches by Elizabeth M. Kelly, Loyola Press

*In Jesus Approaches, Elizabeth Kelly depicts the lives of women in the N.T. whose encounter with Jesus enables them to flourish. Elizabeth Kelly augments these N.T. stories with personal stories of her own life and the lives of women who also in encountered Jesus experienced healing and freedom. The author also reveals the depth of human loneliness, isolation, and woundedness that exists in the lives of women depicted find freedom and healing when united with Christ, the wounded healer. Each chapter concludes with a Christ Encounter and opportunities for meditation, prayer and discussion. This book is helpful for all who wish to find freedom, healing and joy in encountering Jesus.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

Written for Our Instruction: Theological and Spiritual Riches in Romans by Thomas D. Stegman, SJ, Paulist Press

Ignite: Read the Bible Like Never Before by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Sonja Corbitt, Franciscan Media

## **B04b: SCRIPTURE: Academic Studies**

### **First Place**

Ephesians by Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Liturgical Press

*This book presents an excellent study of Ephesians with a strong feminist perspective. It is part of the Wisdom Commentary Series which should be included in every theology school and perhaps, even, parish libraries.*

### **Second Place**

New Colledgeville Bible Commentary: One-Volume Edition by Daniel Durken, OSB, Series Editor, Liturgical Press

*This book represents a huge effort to put together a Bible Commentary. The advantage of this commentary is that it is very reader friendly. The text areas are easy to find and the reflections read well. This is a good book for those who spend time studying scripture or preparing for homilies.*

### **Third Place**

The Bible and Catholic Theological Ethics by Yiu Sing Lucas Chan, James Keenan, Ronaldo Zacharias, Orbis Books

*This book is a very scholarly piece and probably would only be acquired by a very narrow clientele. But the amount of effort, study, and work that went into this book does warrant it to receive recognition.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Apocalyptic Ecology by Micah D. Kiel; Foreword by Barbara R. Rossing, Liturgical Press

## **B05: LITURGY**

### **First Place**

Mass Appeal: 26 Ordinary Ways to Live the Liturgy by Glenn Byer, Novalis Publishing

*Although we have read and heard many exhortations to full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy, this book coaches full, conscious and active participation by looking at the skills required for participation. Some of these are activities that are part of everyday life and some are activities that we call religious. The reader finds a plan to coach oneself and coach others to be skilled and confident in doing all that things that celebrate the faith and share the faith. This is a book that is useful for all ages and for people of all degrees of faith who are seeking communion with God in the Church.*

### **Second Place**

Lost in Translation by Gerald O'Collins, SJ, and John Wilkins, Liturgical Press

*This is a well reasoned, concise argument for a truly vernacular translation of the Roman Missal. The argument is based on principles as old as those proposed by St. Jerome and on recent ecclesiastical history from the Second Vatican Council to the most recent translation of the Roman Missal into English.*

### **Third Place**

Introduction to the Study of Liturgy by Albert Gerhards and Benedikt Kranemann, translated by Linda M. Maloney, Liturgical Press

*This is a comprehensive presentation of the scholarly study of Catholic liturgy. It is a suitable textbook for graduate students. It will continue to be useful as a reference book.*

## **B06: PASTORAL MINISTRY**

### **First Place**

Rediscovering the Art of Dying by Nuala Kenny, Novalis Publishing

*This is a superb exploration on a very critical topic in the lives of believers today: the experience of dying. The author confronts the modern attempts to camouflage the reality of death with political and medical interventions and challenges the current ideology with her compassion as a physician and the Church's theology of the Paschal Mystery. Her insights are rooted in real life experiences that any reader can relate to and learn from.*

## **Second Place**

The Way of Catechesis by Gerard F. Baumbach, Ave Maria Press

*This is an excellent and scholarly work that intertwines the evolving catechetical tradition in the Church with a refreshing exploration of catechesis in the life of the Church today. Thorough research coupled with the author's own experience and passionate ministry make this a must read for anyone serious about handing on faith in the Church today.*

## **Third Place**

With the Smell of the Sheep: The Pope Speaks to Priests, Bishops, and Other Shepherds by Pope Francis, Orbis Books

*This is a fine collection of homilies by Pope Francis. Although originally directed to clergy, the insights of the Pope offer a critical vision for all those who love the Church and who desire that the Church be more passionate as imitator of Jesus Christ.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

Hurting In the Church A Way Forward for Wounded Catholics by Fr. Thomas Berg, Our Sunday Visitor

Enduring Ministry by Samuel D. Rahberg, Liturgical Press

## **B07: PROFESSIONAL BOOKS**

### **First Place**

Fundamentalism at Home and Abroad by Gerald A. Arbuckle, Liturgical Press

*A masterpiece on an ultra-important topic. Its chapter on Catholic fundamentalism should be produced as a mass-distributed pamphlet for every parish. Fights the too-loosely-held notion that the opposite of faith is doubt, rather it is certitude.*

### **Second Place**

Catholic Witness in Health Care: Practicing Medicine in Truth and Love by John M. Travaline, M.D., and Louise A. Mitchell, M.A., M.T.S., editors, The Linacre Quarterly

*The Catholic University of America Press has here produced an indispensable work for all involved in Catholic medical care. Comprehensive, authoritative, timely--and spiritually rich.*

### **Third Place**

A Pastor's Toolbox 2 by Paul A. Holmes, Editor, Foreword by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Liturgical Press

*Like its predecessor, this "more" volume offers tried and true parish management strategies and techniques for leaders and entire teams at Catholic schools and parishes.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Come to Believe: How the Jesuits are Reinventing Education (Again) by Stephen Katsouros, SJ, Orbis Books

## **B08: DESIGN AND PRODUCTION**

### **First Place**

Incarnate Grace: Perspectives on the Ministry of Catholic Health Care by Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D., Catholic Health Association

*A pleasant surprise in design and production adding to the content. A salient point is the artistic separation of sections with a summary of that section. A definite standout.*

### **Second Place**

A History of the Church in 100 Objects by Mike Aquilina and Grace Aquilina, Ave Maria Press

*From cover to cover, this fascinating book appeals to the eye as well as to the curious mind. The photos for every "object" presented are exquisite and the headline typefaces with an admixture of color break the barriers of traditional typestyles. Count this a winner.*

### **Third Place**

At Play in the Lions' Den: A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan by Jim Forest, Orbis Books

*With all the photos, quotes and story lines artistically presented as a master juggler presents an artful act, this is an inviting book that catches the attention by its presentation and then holds it. An admirably produced work.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Notre Dame at 175: A Visual History by Charles Lamb and Elizabeth Hogan, Franciscan Media

## **B09a: CHILDREN’S BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR TEENS: Children’s Books**

### **First Place**

The Legend of Saint Christopher: Quest for a King by Lee Hyoun-ju, Pauline Books & Media

*If you’re not familiar with graphic novels and Japanese manga, take note: Young people nowadays like them, buy them and read them well into their 20s and older. For the uninitiated, these books slightly resemble your father’s comic books. But they’re not. Into this world comes this English translation of “The Legend of St. Christopher” first published in Korean. The book is a graphic “novella” and is called a legend because in 1969, the Catholic Church formally removed him from its liturgical calendar due to continuing questions about what about him is myth vs. fact. But that doesn’t matter much here: The book tells a good, engaging story young people will read. It also helps readers understand the importance of service to others, serving the right master (i.e. Christ), and finding one’s own gifts. Punctuated with Asian style blammos and zammos, wise cracks and cute sidekicks, this is a familiar, enjoyable genre for young people in the 21st century. Congratulations to writer and illustrator Lee Hyoun-ju, translator Kyung Hee Yoon, and Pauline Books & Media for producing this thoroughly modern, and delightful book that’s great for readers of all ages.*

### **Second Place**

We Pray in Many Ways by Christine Way Skinner & Céleste Gagnon, Novalis Publishing

*We Pray in Many Ways presents a wonderful, practical application for prayer everyone can relate to. Definitively shows children the availability of our Lord in their daily lives and demonstrates how to live each day as a prayer. Ideal for children of all ages: can be read alone or together with family. The colorful illustrations are outstanding. The simple yet profound message of the book reminds us how accessible God really is.*

### **Third Place**

The Other Side of Freedom by Cynthia T. Toney, Write Integrity Press

*The Other Side of Freedom brings us a glimpse of Italian-American immigrants’ lives in the early 20th century. Thirteen-year-old Sal and his first generation parents and uncle work hard to make it in a southern farming community called Freedom. Normalcy evaporates when strangers (also Italian-American) rob Sal’s family and force them to help them rob a bank. Things get complicated, a grocer is murdered, a cop might be corrupt and more. This page-turner zeroes in on Sal and his friend Antonina as they and their families struggle with keeping it all secret under penalty of death. This loss of innocence story shows how making right decisions in the adult world isn’t always a clear cut choice between right and wrong. Sometimes it’s a choice between wrong and wrong. And sometimes there are no good choices, and trouble is inevitable. A major component of lost innocence, for all of us, is the realization that life is neither as morally simple or as just as we’d like it to be. Instead, even ordinary, good people can unexpectedly land in deep trouble through no fault of their own. This book skillfully shows how making the right, life-affirming choices can sometimes feel like wading through an alligator-infested swamp with no view of the other side. The book makes unusual, interesting use of the Italian immigrant experience in an historic setting. It also goes beyond simple, predictable melodrama to take on realistic moral complexity. The author respects young adult readers just starting to grapple with the real world. She accomplishes that by trusting them to consider moral complexity instead of spoon feeding them simplistic answers.*

## Honorable Mentions

Simon of Cyrene and the Legend of the Easter Egg by Terri DeGezelle, Pauline Books & Media

The Watcher: Inspired by Psalm 121 by Nikki Grimes, Illustrated by Bryan Collier, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

## **B09b: CHILDREN’S BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR TEENS: Books for Teens & Young Adults**

### First Place

Anointed: Gifts of the Holy Spirit by Written by Pope Francis, Compiled by Jaymie Stuart Wolfe, Pauline Books & Media

*This book contains teachings of the Pope that are easily applied to daily life. It is written in a way that makes it appealing to a variety of age groups. It is very relevant and applicable to today’s teens and young adults who are struggling to find their way in the world. The prayers listed at the end of the book are all beautiful selections.*

### Second Place

Living Against the Grain by Tim Muldoon, Loyola Press

*Learning to live an authentic life is the goal of this book. I found many of the topics to be very thought provoking. There are questions in each chapter that could easily open the door to more in depth discussions. The book is broken down into chapters containing scripture verses with simple explanations that are appropriate for young adults and teens.*

### Third Place

Playing by Heart by Carmela A. Martino, Vinspire Publishing

*The characters in this book are interesting and very likable. Topics covered are family ties, vocation and feminism. Being a historical romance will enable this book to be appealing to a variety of readers. So much of the history of Italy is noted in this book that it could be a selected read for high schools.*

## **B10: FIRST TIME AUTHOR OF A BOOK**

### First Place

Lift Up Your Heart by John Burns, Ave Maria Press

*This is a small, easy—to- handle but still weighty book. -- in the sense of its importance for readers seeking spiritual calm, and wisdom in today’s world. Based on a retreat with St. Francis De Sales the author engaged in, and his reaction and advice coming out of that experience it is a clear and conscience gift in our search for guidance and an excellent performance as a writers first book.*

## **Second Place**

Vesper Time: The Spiritual Practice of Growing Older by Frank J. Cunningham, Orbis Books

*A very impressive and accessible contribution on a hugely important subject for Catholics and everybody else: Our growing Older! The author espouses the spiritual practice of acceptance and gratitude for this event, in a handy and attractive book- surely an important offering for our aging population today.*

## **Third Place**

Crispina and Her Sisters: Women and Authority in Early Christianity by Christine Schenk CSJ, Fortress Press

*This book stands out because of its sharp focus on women, especially women in the early church and their authority, a subject we do not hear or read much about. This book is very well explored, well organized and quite readable.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

God's Patient Pursuit of My Soul by Chris Manion, Redemption Press

Littlest Suffering Souls: Children Whose Short Lives Point Us to Christ by Austin Ruse, Saint Benedict Press/TAN Books

## **B11: FAMILY LIFE**

### **First Place**

Eight Whopping Lies and Other Stories of Bruised Grace by Brian Doyle, Franciscan Media

*This is a wonderful collection of short but exceedingly memorable vignettes of life in all of its beauty and its messiness. Brian Doyle was a gifted writer who told universally identifiable stories about growing up and living Catholic. Simple stories of the faith, prayer, family life. He writes movingly with a balance of humor. This is appealing reading.*

### **Second Place**

Getting Past Perfect by Kate Wicker, Ave Maria Press

*Kate Wicker convincingly tells her readers that they don't have to be perfect, that mothering isn't perfect, and you don't have to love it all the time. She uses a technic of "earworms" to begin each chapter countered by what Wicker calls the unvarnished truth. Earworms are what a mother is told she must do or feel while the unvarnished truth is just that. The book is common sense, practical. She gives mothers great advice about being primarily a daughter of God and that authentic motherhood must come from a place of love and trust. But overall, mothering isn't perfect all the time and that is okay.*

### **Third Place**

Tuned In The power of pressing pause and listening by Art and Laraine Bennett, Our Sunday Visitor

*This book explores the art of listening. Truly, listening can bring joy and in silence one can hear the Word of God. The husband and wife authors Art and Laraine Bennett have wisdom to offer in their book. We cannot accomplish anything without listening, and in silence God speaks to us. They use the analogy Christ's three days in the tomb to illustrate the importance of silence, where we gain wisdom. Particularly touching for me was the Elijah experience on Mt. Horeb, where God wasn't in the wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in a "still small voice." God speaks to us in the ordinary. Good reading for a church study group or just by yourself, silently.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Sharing Our Story by David Dayler, Novalis Publishing

## **B12: MARRIAGE**

### **First Place**

Inseparable Love by Paul Turner, Liturgical Press

*Substantive, little fluff. comprehensive and well written.*

### **Second Place**

Forever: A Catholic Devotional for Your Marriage by Jackie Francois Angel and Bobby Angel, Pauline Books & Media

### **Third Place**

And the Two Shall Be Forever One by Mona Lee-Feehan, Novalis Publishing

## **B13: HISTORY**

### **First Place**

Crispina and Her Sisters: Women and Authority in Early Christianity by Christine Schenk CSJ, Fortress Press

*Christine Schenk's book is a major contribution to the growing body of scholarship reshaping our understanding of the ecclesial leadership women provided in early Christianity. Using the representations of women found on sarcophagi and in catacomb frescos, the author convincingly demonstrates that women participated in roles of authority during the first three centuries of Christianity. While making no theological claims, and emphasizing the historical character of the research, this book will contribute to the accumulating evidence that women's roles in the 21st century Church should be reevaluated, because it was not until the fourth century that women's ecclesial authority was restricted to monastic settings.*

## **Second Place**

Beyond the Inquisition: Ambrogio Catarino Politi and the Origins of the Counter-Reformation by Giorgio Caravale, University of Notre Dame Press

*This beautifully produced volume brings to an anglophone audience this great scholarly accomplishment by Giorgio Caravale, through a fine translation by the recently deceased Don Weinstein. This account of Ambrogio Catarino Politi reveals the complex personality and intellectual nuance of the man, and illustrates what "might have been" had the Counter-Reformation been shaped by the vision of theologians like him.*

## **Third Place**

Dominican Brothers: Conversi, Lay, and Cooperator Friars by Fr. Augustine Thompson, O.P., New Priory Press

*Fr. Augustine Thompson's book brings into higher relief the contributions of the non-ordained men of the Dominican order. This overview is much needed to better understand the contributions of lay brothers to Dominican life through the centuries.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

Conscience of a Nation by Jacques Monet, s.j., Novalis Publishing

A History of the Church in 100 Objects by Mike Aquilina and Grace Aquilina, Ave Maria Press

## **B14: BIOGRAPHY**

### **First Place**

Antoine Frédéric Ozanam by Raymond L. Sickinger, University of Notre Dame Press

*The workmanship, organization, and use of language made this biography a notable winner for me. In particular, the many facets of this one man and his relationship and role to others both evolved and expanded its influence. Akin to the scientific evolution of a star...it accumulates material which increases the scope of its brightness. In addition, the use of the term systemic change prior to legacy was a potent and illuminating way of describing a person who lived during a time where the term may not have existed. We see him this way now. Some of us understand what a systemic influencer really is. Lastly, the critics comments were an influence as well. Ozanam could very well be the Shakespeare of the indigent.*

## **Second Place**

At Play in the Lions' Den: A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan by Jim Forest, Orbis Books

*I have been deeply struck by the story of this man Daniel Berrigan. The organizational unfolding of the impact his being had on so many people and of course in the world of meaning is remarkable. Jim Forest did a superb job in paying tribute to a life I was previously mostly unaware of. In the world of spirit, there is no first second or third place. The legacy that has been organized in print form is profound. This was very difficult to "place" so to speak. It's in another realm really.*

## **Third Place**

Wine from Raisins by Josef Svoboda, Novalis Publishing

*I took in a profound impression upon seeing the cover. The photograph is vivid and sincere. The story of this man's journey is so inspirational to everyone. It's the trials and hardships that hone transformation for some, not all. I am so inspired by the story in particular as it was organized in "incarnations" of a life's continual journey. Glad he's alive. In fact, I was almost going to give this an honorable mention because the other trailblazers have left this world so to speak. At the last moment, this book placed in the top 3.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

i am through you so i by Brother David Steindl-Rast, Paulist Press

St. Clare of Assisi: Light From the Cloister by Bret Thoman, OFS, Saint Benedict Press/TAN Books

## **B15: GENDER ISSUES**

### **First Place**

Mothers of Faith: Motherhood in the Christian Tradition by Wilfred M. Sumani, SJ, Orbis Books

*So, what does a Jesuit priest know about "motherhood"? Apparently, this one knows a lot shown by his brilliant coverage of not only Old and New Testament mothers but those in Christian Tradition, e.g., Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa. And to extend the fullness of motherhood, Fr Sumani, in true Jesuit fashion, tops it off with the Trinity and Earth. Nowhere will you find such rich insights and sources and such an expansive treatment of Christian motherhood as in Sumani's text. The chapter on "Mary, the Mother of Meditation" is pure gold.*

## **Second Place**

Super Girls and Halos by Maria Morera Johnson, Ave Maria Press

*Enrich your knowledge and understanding of saints--those with a capital S, like Katharine Drexel and Mary Magdalen and others with a lower case "s," e.g. Wonder Woman and Agent Dana Scully by dipping into this fascinating mix and match volume. Maria Morera Johnson pulled off a surprisingly "saintly" portrayal of various traditional and "not so ..." women that will entertain and enlighten young and "not so ..." women, and no doubt some superheroes of the other gender as well.*

## **Third Place**

Building a Bridge by James Martin SJ, HarperOne Sanfransisco

*If anybody can do what the subtitle of his book states: a relationship between the Catholic Church and the LGBT Community, Fr. Martin can and does. If nothing else, this small book has broken open the discussion with the most sensitive words and the most profound words: compassion, prayer and scripture. Even the most traditional Catholic with strong stereotypes and ingrained opinions will find it hard to argue with the Christian attitude and posture that pervades Martin's plea to bridge the gap that separates, excludes, cuts off, or alienates other Catholics who don't fit their mold. They might ask themselves: WWJD?*

## **Honorable Mention**

On Being Unfinished: Collected Writings by Anne E. Patrick, Orbis Books

## **B16: REFERENCE BOOKS**

### **First Place**

Interpreting the Gospel and Letters of John: An Introduction by Sherri L. Brown and Francis J. Moloney, SDB, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

*Comprehensive treatment of subject strikingly presented, enhanced by appealing layout with generous white space on every page plus maps and illustrations make researching the topic pleasurable as well as informative. Valuable assets include a bibliography and suggested reading list and three indexes. An admirable work.*

### **Second Place**

Ignatian Pedagogy by José Mesa, SJ, Loyola Press

*Extremely readable. Makes research of the subject easy and pleasant while imparting knowledge. A pleasantly readable typeface and line spacing help make this a valued reference.*

## **B17: DIOCESAN DIRECTORY**

### **First Place**

Diocese of Rockford 2017-18 Official Directory by Observer Staff, The Observer

*The design makes this a directory you would want to use, not just for reference but for knowledge of particulars of parishes. Has all the points that make a good directory usable and the layout makes it not only a useful but a very well presented tool.*

### **Second Place**

2017/2018 Catholic Directory by Cathi Douglas, Mary Medico, Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange

*Good organization as well as an appealing layout make this a welcome reference tool. The extended tabs really stand out in glossy black with white reversed-out type for the sections.*

### **Third Place**

Los Angeles Catholic Directory by Chris Krause, Bertica Garcia Dubus, Osvaldo Cisternas, Angelus

*Besides good organization and layout, the extended tabs help find the sections easily. Some brief historical stories add to the usefulness of this directory.*

## **B18b: CATALOG: Best Trade/Seasonal Catalog**

### **First Place**

Orbis Books Fall 2017 Catalog by Orbis Books, Orbis Books

*Appealing layout, strikingly sharp cover-art photos with excellent cross-selling feature make this a sure winner.*

### **Second Place**

Liturgical Press Parish Spring 2017 by Monica Bokinskie, Liturgical Press

*A mountain of resources presented well without overwhelming the shopper, with clear indication of various categories. A good sales tool.*

### **Third Place**

OCP Summer Catalog 2017 by OCP, OREGON CATHOLIC PRESS

*While the entire catalog has all the usual features to make it a good sales tool, one exceptional feature is the link to their website that gives personal testimonies from pastor and music ministry of parishes from Alaska to Louisiana telling why they chose a particular hymnal.*

## **B19: BEST BOOK BY A SMALL PUBLISHER**

### **First Place**

The Table by Dennis Lambert, Enroute Books and Media St. Louis

*I found the book well written for a young adult audience.*

### **Second Place**

Christian Faith and the Power of Thinking: A Collection of Essays Marking the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Order of Preachers in 1216 by Fr. Jay Harrington, O.P., New Priory Press

*The book would be most valuable to those interested in the Dominican Order.*

### **Honorable Mention**

The Rosary with St. Thérèse of Lisieux by Patricia Lynn Morrison, Series Editor, ICS Publications

## **B20: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

### **First Place**

The Problem of Wealth: A Christian Response to a Culture of Affluence by Elizabeth L. Hinson-Hasty, Orbis Books

*Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty retrieves the priority of the problem of wealth for ethical thought and theological conversation. She reminds readers of the long history of biblical and Christian theological focus on the problem of wealth, how we lost that focus, and why it is so important to refocus on that question today. A much needed contribution to debate about poverty and wealth.*

## **Second Place**

Wealth, Wages, and the Wealthy by Raymond F. Collins, Liturgical Press

*This book is a rich resource for “preachers and teachers”—in other words, all thoughtful Catholics and Christians—who recognize the gap between the treatment of wealth in the New Testament and most modern-day Christians’ view of it. Ray Collins exposes the consistent themes found in texts referencing economics with writing that is accessible and contemporary. Ample footnotes and indexes provide direction for readers who want to dive deeper into the topic.*

## **Third Place**

Essential Catholic Social Thought by Bernard V. Brady, Orbis Books

*Bernard Brady offers a novel approach to exploring Catholic social thought by providing summaries of pivotal documents, movements, and theologians woven together by his studied understanding of that board tradition of thought and action.*

## **B21: FAITH AND SCIENCE**

### **First Place**

The Image of the Unseen God: Catholicity, Science, and Our Evolving Understanding of God by Thomas E. Hosinski, Orbis Books

*The title of this is chosen from the author of the Colossians who express Jesus Christ as the clearest and deepest revelation of God. In this book Thomas Hosinski attempts to present an image of God, centered in Christ, as the incarnational energy at the heart of the universe. This energy is the Love that is at the heart of the universe and makes us whole. Father Hosinski believes that what we know about the universe through science must inform our understanding of God. In order to speak about faith to our contemporaries, it must be compatible with empirical science and with the process metaphysics of Alfred North Whitehead, which is compatible with our contemporary understanding of the universe. The author presents the developments of science and cosmology from the twenty first century which are important for the understanding of God’s relation to the universe and implications for theology. In presenting his scientific data, the author has given us an understanding of the universe as revealed in physics, cosmology, biology and evolution. Fr. Hosinski has achieved his purpose in the meaning of catholicity as a consciousness of the whole sentience, in Christ. This theology opens new horizons of insight for Christian faith and life and grow together in our expanding universe.*

## **Second Place**

The Source of All Love: Catholicity and the Trinity by Heidi Russell, Orbis Books

*Heidi Russell with this creative work has enlighten our ability to see the Trinity as the ground of our being and the goal of this evolving universe, but also to see God. Russell begins her thesis on the findings of Bohm and Smolin, physicists who see the cosmos as an interconnected whole. From here Russell speaks of the God who created the cosmos. For Russell, the images of wholeness and relationality are foundational for our exploration of the Trinity as the source of Love revealed in Word and enacted in Spirit. The author shifts the language of movement away to the language of Love as Source, Word as Spirit. To support her thesis, the author refers to Scripture, the early Christian writers, and the Fathers of the Church to give insight into the analogy of God as the unoriginated Source of Love revealed and expressed in word and enacted and unfolded on the Spirit. Russell refers to the twentieth century theologian Rahner, who understands Trinity as revealed in incarnation and grace. For the social analogy of the Trinity, the author suggests that rather than look to the Trinity for the meaning of person or community, we look to Christ and the Acts of the Apostles. Our catholicity calls us to recognize the wholeness and interconnectedness of all creation.*

## **Third Place**

Evolution and the Fall by William T. Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith, editors, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

*This book is the result of a three-year program of research by ten scholars from the Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions which addresses human evolution relationship to the Christian tradition's confession of Original Sin. These essays focus on difficult questions from the perspective of biology, theology, biblical studies, theological ethics and the history of the relationship between science and theology. These essays address the problem existing due to credible evidence from evolution and traditional interpretation of Genesis and the origins of traditional sin. These essays do not come to a conclusive decision regarding the question of the Fall. However, this book has contributed greatly to the dialog between science, theology, and support for the ongoing examination of previous Biblical interpretations of origins.*

## **Honorable Mentions**

Religion vs. Science: What Religious People Really Think by William T. Cavanaugh and James K. A. Smith, editors, Oxford University Press

Incarnation: A New Evolutionary Threshold by Diarmuid O'Murchu, Orbis Books

## **B24: FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP/RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

### **First Place**

Abducted in Iraq: A Priest in Baghdad by Saad Sirop Hanna, with Edward S. Aris, University of Notre Dame Press

*Bishop Hanna writes a compelling book about his kidnapping and capture in Iraq in 2006 by Sunni Muslims. He is a Chaldean Catholic priest when he is taken on the evening of the Feast of the Assumption. It is a very human story where Father Saad Sirop Hanna describes his ordeal from morning until night for a period of time slightly less than one month. He lives with the hope of being exchanged as a prisoner, to being ransomed, only to find himself being tortured and beaten with no explanation, but always with a demand that he accept Islam. The Chaldean Patriarchy as well as Father Saad's family paid a ransom, but, he was released only when the captors determined to do so. It is an excellent read and a real study in love of Christ. Father's enduring love of Christ allowed him to survive with hope. Perhaps the persecution of Catholic Christians in the Middle East will receive greater attention because of this book.*

### **Second Place**

Strangers in a Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World by Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Henry Hoult And Company

*There were three really good entries among the books submitted for this category. It was particularly difficult to choose between the first and second place books. Archbishop Chaput is an outstanding writer and teacher and his book is challenging and rewarding. He offers tremendous wisdom for our day. While the book explores living the faith in a "post-Christian world" Chaput tells us that terminology is a lie "so long as the fire of Christian faith, hope and love lives in any one of us." He encourages us to look beyond our culture to see and strive for being the change that the world needs. Archbishop relies on the words of theologians, clergy, philosophers and historians to support his thesis. Excellent reading.*

### **Third Place**

Catholicism and Citizenship by Massimo Faggioli, Liturgical Press

*The book is very well written and deals with Pope Francis' papacy in light of his view of *Guadium et spes*. The purpose of the book, Faggioli states, is to look at Catholicism in the modern world, as it has changed so much since Vatican II. He believes that Pope Francis as the first pope to be ordained after the close of the council looks at *Guadium et spes* with a different theological method grounded in his own theology of liberation and attention to political praxis. He deals with what he terms the great Americanist non reception of *Guadium et spes*. It is at its root an academic text.*

### **Honorable Mentions**

The Sin of White Supremacy: Christianity, Racism, and Religious Diversity in America by Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Orbis Books

Conscience and Catholic Health Care: From Clinical Contexts to Government Mandates by David E. DeCosse, Thomas A. Nairn, O.F.M., Orbis Books

## **B26: IMMIGRATION**

### **First Place**

Parish and Place: Making Room for Diversity in the American Catholic Church by Tricia Colleen Bruce, Oxford University Press

*While placed in the area of immigration, the book has a wider significance. It is about the effort to maintain a balance within the American Catholic Church between the primacy of the territorial parish and the increasing need to recognize 'personal' parishes- those organized because of special need or purpose. These include congregations based upon ethnicity but may also be established for various other purposes- such as differences of rite and even those responding to the needs of tourists. The book is well organized and researched with the author depending upon personal interviews as well as objective data. The reasoning is sustained and balanced. She raises interesting and provocative questions about how, in the establishment of 'personal' parishes the recognition of diversity can be reconciled with the broader demands for unity within the Church.*

### **Second Place**

Migrants and Citizens: Justice and Responsibility in the Ethics of Immigration by Tisha M. Rajendra, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

*The ideals of Justice applicable to the phenomenon of modern migration are usually cast in abstract and cosmopolitan form. This book challenges these approaches as being too detached from the realities of those who leave the places of their births to seek a better life for themselves and their families in a foreign land, as well as the complex and conditioned reactions of those who are already citizens of the desired territory. Beginning with the responsibilities imposed by God upon Israel in the Hebrew Bible, the author traces the development of the idea that justice requires fidelity to the demands of a concrete relationship and demonstrates the application of these principles to the historically conditioned realities of migration and immigration policy. An important contribution to the field.*

## **B28: CATHOLIC NOVELS**

### **First Place**

Pistaco: A Tale of Love in the Andes by Lynn F. Monahan, ACTA Publications

*This is a very attractive story about a priest caught up in some mountain wars in Peru, plus dangers and people he encounters -- especially a young lady teacher he loves-- and troubles that occur. Its professionally written and a joy to read.*

### **Second Place**

Defend the Tabernacle by Deacon Patrick Augustin Jones, The Colorado Catholic Herald

*Here we have a short but fascinating tale that offers a couple of interesting main characters-- plus Saint Gabriel the Archangel, of all people- focused on the joys and problems of love and marriage. It's a warm story and a very good entry.*

### **Third Place**

The Table by Dennis Lambert, Enroute Books and Media St. Louis

*This is a good story, of "a miracle table built by the grandfather of Jesus Christ," plus what happens to it and many characters connected to it, over 20 centuries.*

### **Honorable Mentions**

Island of Miracles by Amy Schisler, Amy Schisler

Blythe by John E. Kramer, Freedom Forge Press LLC

## **B34a: PRAYER: Books about prayer**

### **First Place**

In All Seasons, For All Reasons by James Martin, SJ, Liturgical Press

*A simple but highly useful contribution to understanding and appreciating the power of prayer. Father Martin continues to clear out the debris and the noise and get to the heart of the matter.*

### **Second Place**

Why the Rosary, Why Now? by Gretchen R. Crowe, Our Sunday Visitor

*Particularly helpful for rosary prayer groups or for the individual person who may be attracted to this prayer form. The witnesses selected to testify to the efficacy of the rosary are the best that could be selected.*

### **Third Place**

Holy Desperation by Heather King, Loyola Press

*You can feel the "desperation" of the author on the very first pages of the book. A basic compilation of well used prayer thematic which can serve as a useful primer for a person looking for a little extra inspiration.*

## **B34b: PRAYER: Collections of prayers**

### **First Place**

Prayer Seeds by Joyce Rupp, Ave Maria Press

*In Prayer Seeds, Joyce Rupp offers almost a hundred new selections of original blessings, reflections, poems, prayers and readings on a variety of themes suitable for feast and seasons of the Liturgical year. Many of Prayer Seeds begin with the greeting Namasté which acknowledges the goodness within along with the acceptance of the unfinished self. In Prayer Seeds, each resource is intended as a spiritual seed to kindle the fire within. The uniqueness of this book each resource is intended to kindle the fire within, this is a spiritual treasure suitable for both communal and personal prayer.*

### **Second Place**

The Rosary with St. Thérèse of Lisieux by Patricia Lynn Morrison, Series Editor, ICS Publications

*The Rosary with St. Therese of Lisieux is a small but spiritual treasure. Each of the mysteries of the rosary are introduced with a Scriptural passage accompanied by a reading from some of the other extant writings of St. Therese of Lisieux. There are a number of citations from the writings of St. Therese in conjunction with the scriptural readings which contribute to greater prayer and incites into the mystery of love of God. References to the writings of St. Therese contribute to the spiritual legacy of this great saint.*

### **Third Place**

St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Conversion of Sinners by Susan Tassone, Our Sunday Visitor

*St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Conversion of Sinners offers us a compendium of prayers and spiritual practices for the conversion of sinners and ones self conversion. The writings and prayers of St. Faustina with the emphasis on the mercy of God are foundational to this book. Susan Tassone addresses the concepts of conversion, penance, and forgiveness with prayers, novenas, and scriptural passages addressed to the passion of Christ, Our Lady, and The Saints. The writings of Saint Faustina Prayer Book is a resource book which is useful for personal prayer, and communal services and devotions.*

### **Honorable Mentions**

A Catholic Woman's Book of Prayers by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, Paraclete Press

Holy Spirit Prayer Book by Mary Mark Wickenhiser, FSP, Pauline Books & Media

## **B35: ECUMENISM OR INTERFAITH RELATIONS**

### **First Place**

The Joy of Religious Pluralism: A Personal Journey by Peter C. Phan, Orbis Books

*If for no other reason his explanation and insistence on the “Necessity of many Magesteria for Today’s Church” is an essential corrective and a bold invitation to trust in the many manifestations of grace. I think it opens up the entire conversation in a manner that is both needed and helpful.*

### **Second Place**

Interreligious Encounters: Opportunities and Challenges by Michael Amaladoss, Orbis Books

*Very helpful presentation to aid the reader(s) in coming to an understanding of the opportunities and the challenges of interreligious encounters. I found the author to be very balanced in his presentations and I discovered a wealth of material that requires further reflection and meditation. In other words I felt that I had received a “main course and not just the appetizer.”*

### **Third Place**

Praise the Name of the Lord by Archbishop Michael Louis Fitzgerald, Liturgical Press

*A teacher is the person who can share the richness of their own experience while all the while keeping the material fresh and inviting more insight. I found that the author succeeded in inviting me into a deepening appreciation for the names of God that are essential to two vibrant religious traditions. He did so with both the validity of experience and the respect of a person who walks the path of the sacred.*

## **B36: PILGRIMAGES/CATHOLIC TRAVEL**

### **First Place**

Saint Junipero Serra’s Camino: A Pilgrimage Guide to the California Missions by Stephen J. Binz, Franciscan Media

*Well-researched and thorough. substantive.*

### **Second Place**

101 Places to Pray Before You Die: A Roamin’ Catholic’s Guide by Thomas J. Craughwell, Franciscan Media

*Nice little book, but quite subjective, though reasonable, in its choices. An easy and pleasant read.*

## **B37: SACRAMENTS**

### **First Place**

Be Transformed by Bob Schuchts, Ave Maria Press

*The sacraments are the life-line to grace in Jesus Christ and the Church. This book invites the reader to enter each sacrament as a personal encounter with Jesus to be transformed, healed, and strengthened so that the life of faith can be realized.*

### **Second Place**

The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments by Scott Weeman, Ave Maria Press

*Sacraments are the means through which we are sanctified and given grace for spiritual wholeness. The Twelve Steps have helped many to recover from addiction and now for people of faith this book opens up a deeper understanding of the sacramental grace that can accompany a person on that journey of healing.*

## **B38: POPE FRANCIS**

### **First Place**

Our Common Home: Visual Meditations of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' by Michael O'Neill McGrath, World Library Publications

*Simple yet stunning artistry make Pope Francis's save-our-creation words fill with meaning. Shows we can save what we first love.*

### **Second Place**

Mother Mary: Inspiring Words from Pope Francis by Alicia von Stamwitz, Franciscan Media

*A book that confirms not only the Universal Church's love for Mary, but also the persona, intimate love Pope Francis possesses and advocates. Beautiful in every way.*

### **Third Place**

Embracing the Way of Jesus by Pope Francis, Loyola Press

*An excellent guide to living our faith--being Christian and doing Christianity. The essentials of discipleship come from the words of a modern prophet.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Pope Francis and the Theology of the People by Rafael Luciani, Orbis Books

## **B40: POETRY**

### **First Place**

Seeing Haloes by John Shea, drawings by Mark and Franklin McMahon, Liturgical Press

*"Seeing Haloes" is a nice little book of poems for Advent and Christmas that takes some unusual twists -- like what the birth of Christ was like from the sheep's perspective: "But we are more than we appear. We have our place and it is not inconsiderable." Who would have thought sheep could express themselves so regally, and with multisyllabic Latinate words. There are also poems from the perspectives of other creche characters -- like the angel normally perched atop the stable roof and shepherds who grouse that "Proclamation is easier than explanation." There are the author's vivid descriptions of his own childhood. In "My Father's Shoulder" Shea's mother tells of how, as an infant with a stomach ailment, he "crunched on my father's shoulder, my feet pulled up into a knot, my legs unable to dangle down the waiting bed of his chest." One can truly feel and see the baby's pain with specifics like this. They raise Shea's poetry into a higher sphere that leaves an image stamped in your brain.*

### **Second Place**

O Garden-Dweller by Laura Reece Hogan, Finishing Line Press

*Southern California's drought, trees, tinder and the dirt beneath them channel their voices through the best poems in Laura Reece Hogan's \_O Garden-Dweller\_. The Song of Songs is her inspiration as she uses the natural environment of her home state to imbue many of the book's poems with the frightful smoke, heat and blazes of the past year's wildfires. In "Pantoum of the Tinderbox" she writes: "You hide in searing scorched sand. My charred lips crack, peel in pain. I wander this, your parched desert. My throat rattles stripped prayer." Such imagery serves as metaphor for the parched soul that begs for water yet knows fire purifies before something new can bloom. She reassures us there's also hope to be found in the wake of fear and destruction, in the poem "Rain Comes in the Fourth Year." Hogan's timeliness and excellent way of using California's forest and fire imagery to illuminate a human soul's longing make this book a prize winner.*

### **Third Place**

The Book of Trees by Sean M. Conrey, St. Julian Press

*The Book of Trees is unusual and captivating because its author, a college English professor of Irish descent, weaves words to construct a cloth that shows us Ireland's trees. But they're not just trees. Conrey's birch, yew, elder, blackthorn and many more function as springboards to deeper explorations of prayer and spirituality as well as an introduction to an early Irish alphabet called Ogham script developed in pre-Christian days. The script's letters are actual names of trees and are used as the "titles" of the poems. Conrey also risks construction of bridges between Ireland's pagans and Christians instead of the usual "bad" and "good" dichotomy. The result is an enigma that can be savored and pondered just as one might do whilst resting on a stump in a real forest. It might also send the reader to the dictionary or Google to learn unfamiliar Irish words and concepts. This book is no plain white bread; it is a hearty, crusty rye to be enjoyed and savored with butter and a pint.*

### **Honorable Mention**

Chronology of a Life Well Loved by Joseph A Fata, Createspace

## **B41: BACKLIST BEAUTY**

### **First Place**

Of Poets, Prophets, and Preachers by Joseph J. Juknialis, World Library Publications

*An unusually well-written guide to effective liturgical preaching. Literary, practical, full of vivid and even surprising ideas. Possibly the best 100 pages any Catholic homilist can find in one volume.*

### **Second Place**

The Most Beautiful Images from the Bible: Sharing the Stories with Children by Katia Mrowiec, Paulist Press

*A large and colorful book for teachers and parents to literally “hold up” in front of them. Contains 20 dramatic and memorable illustrations with accompanying brief texts. A book to savor and treasure.*

### **Third Place**

So We Do Not Lose Heart: Biblical Wisdom For All Our Days by +Demetrius R. Dumm, Archabbey Publications

*A book that lovingly points the way to “a happy ending” for all believers. Inspiring reflections on mortality and God’s unfailing love to see us through.*

### **Honorable Mention**

By What Authority? by Richard Gaillardetz, Liturgical Press