



## BOOK REVIEW

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TITLE: *Living in Christ: Essays on the Christian Life by an Orthodox Nun*

AUTHOR: *Mother Raphaela (Wilkinson)*

Mother Raphaela, Abbess of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York, presents here a rare and compelling collection of essays on the Christian life. With a firm foundation in Scripture and the Fathers, Mother Raphaela sets out the clear, yet strenuous path of the Christian, especially in relation to today's society. She stresses the many subtle dangers that are ever-present in the current culture, especially the false, though seductive, notion that one can live a full life in Christ while at the same time strive for the things of this world.

The life in Christ is not a partial decision, but one which embodies the full person; and to be Orthodox is not simply something one does, but who one is. To embark on this narrow and unpaved way, the Christian should expect to enter into a fierce spiritual battle, one which requires great discipline and steadfastness in the faith, but which ultimately will be one's final and greatest joy, Christ Himself. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

This book is especially good for those considering the monastic life. Mother Raphaela explains in detail the discipline and obedience required of the monastic, and the necessity that the monastic's only goal be to serve God and his neighbor. She warns against the many enticing, though incorrect, draws to the monastic life. This compilation of essays is also important for lay persons who question the place and function of the Monastery in the Church and society.

While Mother Raphaela focuses on the monastic calling, she does make the point that there is no real higher calling among Christians. All Orthodox are called to give their lives completely over to God, and to renounce all that which separates them from Him. The whole of life is a working out, with the grace of God, of one's salvation, and sometimes the very incident of being turned away from monastic life may lead a person to an eventual higher calling. She explains that everyone is required to go into a wilderness of sorts. While the monastic separates himself physically from the world, the Christian living in the world must also create a wilderness for himself where he is completely still and alone to hear the word of God.

What is especially sobering about these essays is how unwaveringly they are grounded in reality. There is no argument against the Christian life that is not at least touched upon by Mother Raphaela in this book. Reading them, one is at first overwhelmed with the discovery of what is ultimately required of him, but at the same time understands that there is no alternative for one desiring to live a life in Christ. Here, it is God's truth unarguably which pours from the pages, and will serve as a guidance and inspiration to all who read them.

**Reviewed by Matushka Katherine Gaudreau**

*Dear Parishoners, if you would like to share with us a book you have read from the parish library, please fill out a "review form" which can be found downstairs in the library.*

Essentially the Orthodox Church shares much with the other Christian Churches in the belief that God revealed himself in Jesus Christ, and a belief in the incarnation of Christ, his crucifixion and resurrection. The Orthodox Church differs substantially in the way of life and worship. The Orthodox Churches are united in faith and by a common approach to theology, tradition, and worship. They draw on elements of Greek, Middle-Eastern, Russian and Slav culture. For monk and nun alike, their spiritual life should follow the same way of living that all Christians try to achieve by following God's commandments. They depict Christ, his mother Mary, scenes from the Bible or the lives of the Saints. The iconographer prepares for the painting of an icon with prayer and fasting. Mother Raphaela is an Orthodox nun and currently the abbess of the Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in New York. Each chapter is taken from her writings over the years in her community newsletter and for some other Christian outlets, and each one is a true treasure. Mother Raphaela writes with a no-nonsense manner, but her writing doesn't come across as anything other than loving and factual. And this is also the case with Living in Christ. There is much here, even in the chapters on monasticism, that can be applied in the lives of everyday Christians wherever they are. While Mother Raphaela is very straightforward in the difficulties that a life in Christ encounters, I found her overall tone to be very encouraging. She explains her points in a very clear and accessible manner. Your offer must be higher than £100. living.in. £0. VAT 0% Learn more. £0. Total. £0. Send your offer. Your offer must be higher than £100. living.in. £0. VAT 0% Learn more. £0. Total. £0. Send your offer. PS Listed by. Orthodox Christians indeed understand themselves as heirs of the Greek Fathers, and the liturgy has been for them the central and essential expression of the "catholic" nature of the Church. 20 In spite of their variety, these various trends of contemporary Orthodox theology show agreement on the point that salvation is to be understood in terms of communion, sanctification, or deification (the theŹsis of the Greek Fathers), that it is based on a synergy of divine grace and human freedom. This collection of essays stuns the reader at every turn of the page...both an enticing depiction of abundant life in Jesus Christ and a warning of the persona Free shipping over \$10. We use Cookies to collect information when you visit our site. You can learn more about how we use this information in our Privacy Policy. By closing this banner or continuing to use our site, you consent to our use of Cookies. Accept & Close. Skip to content. —. Scan a barcode. Search Button. Hi Reader!

Living very humdrum lives, the Orthodox Church gives them something to dream about, usually their next holiday in Crete or wherever. Again, a priest can easily find out if their interest is serious by seeing if they come to church services. Generally, they do not, because they are not on holiday! They have been converted by the Christian example of patience of the other spouse. In the smaller English parishes of the Orthodox Church, some of the problems of isolation encountered by many who join the Orthodox Church have been overcome, at least in part. If you go to what I call the 'State Church parishes', you do not often find coffee or tea provided afterwards, or a talk. Conversely, most of the English churches have church halls. Orthodox Christianity in the West: the ecumenical challenge JOHN A. JILLIONS Glossary Bibliography Index. Cambridge Collections Online © Cambridge University Press, 2009. Notes on contributors. Sister Nonna Verna Harrison, an Orthodox nun and theologian, is currently Assistant Professor of Church History at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. Her writings include *Grace and Human Freedom according to St Gregory of Nyssa* () and *St Basil the Great on the Human Condition* (), as well as scholarly articles in the fields of patristics and Orthodox theology. His writings include *Kontakia: On the Life of Christ. St Romanos the Melodist* (). He was also the principal translator of *The Divine Liturgy of our Father among the Saints John Chrysostom* (). Orthodox Christians indeed understand themselves as heirs of the Greek Fathers, and the liturgy has been for them the central and essential expression of the "catholic" nature of the Church. 20 In spite of their variety, these various trends of contemporary Orthodox theology show agreement on the point that salvation is to be understood in terms of communion, sanctification, or deification (the *theōsis* of the Greek Fathers), that it is based on a synergy of divine grace and human freedom. The spiritual father is very important in the life of an Orthodox Christian. However, it is not enough simply to have one. It is also necessary to have a genuine spiritual relationship with him. It's full of Patristic gems that are highly relevant to living in the world as an Orthodox Christian. See esp. the first section entitled "Blessed are the poor in spirit...". It contains numerous excerpts related to spiritual guidance and discerning God's will. Seraphim Rose. This book is mentioned in the essay on spiritual fatherhood by Bishop Kallistos Ware. *The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It*, by St. Theophan the Recluse (Platina, CA: St. Herman Press, 1996). This is a spiritual classic consisting of eighty letters from St. Theophan to a Muscovite high society girl who eventually becomes a nun.

Orthodox Christians indeed understand themselves as heirs of the Greek Fathers, and the liturgy has been for them the central and essential expression of the "catholic" nature of the Church. During the long centuries which followed the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Orthodox communities of the Middle East and the Balkans had practically no other means of learning about their faith and witnessing to their Christian commitment than the liturgy, but it proved to be powerful enough to keep those communities spiritually alive. In Russia, meanwhile, historical circumstances delayed for... The Church in the East continued to live through its sacramental life, through its liturgy, through the spiritual tradition of a few monastic 481. 482. Living in Christ book. Read 2 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Over the last twenty years Mother Raphaela has written essays on th... While Mother Raphaela is very straightforward in the difficulties that a life in Christ encounters, I found her overall tone to be very encouraging. She explains her points in a very clear and accessible manner. There is no mysticism, no theoretical explanations, and no double talk that leaves you wondering what just happened. She simply tells you what a Life in Christ involves, and says it in such a way that when you walk away and decide NOT to live that way, you are doing so by your own choice. These talks were selected for publication on this Web site due to their special appropriateness for lay people struggling to live an Orthodox life in the world. Two Letters from Elder Moses of Optina, to His Brother Living in the World. On the World and Family, by Elder Ephraim. Seraphim Rose. This book is mentioned in the essay on spiritual fatherhood by Bishop Kallistos Ware. The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It, by St. Theophan the Recluse (Platina, CA: St. Herman Press, 1996). This is a spiritual classic consisting of eighty letters from St. Theophan to a Muscovite high society girl who eventually becomes a nun. Selected Letters, by Archbishop Theophan of Poltava (Liberty, TN: St. John of Kronstadt Press, 1989). The Christ myth theory, also known as the Jesus myth theory, Jesus mythicism, or the Jesus ahistoricity theory, is the view that the story of Jesus is largely fictitious, and has little basis in historical fact. Alternatively, in terms given by Bart Ehrman paraphrasing Earl Doherty, "the historical Jesus did not exist. Or if he did, he had virtually nothing to do with the founding of Christianity." It is a fringe theory, supported by few academically tenured experts in biblical studies and ancient