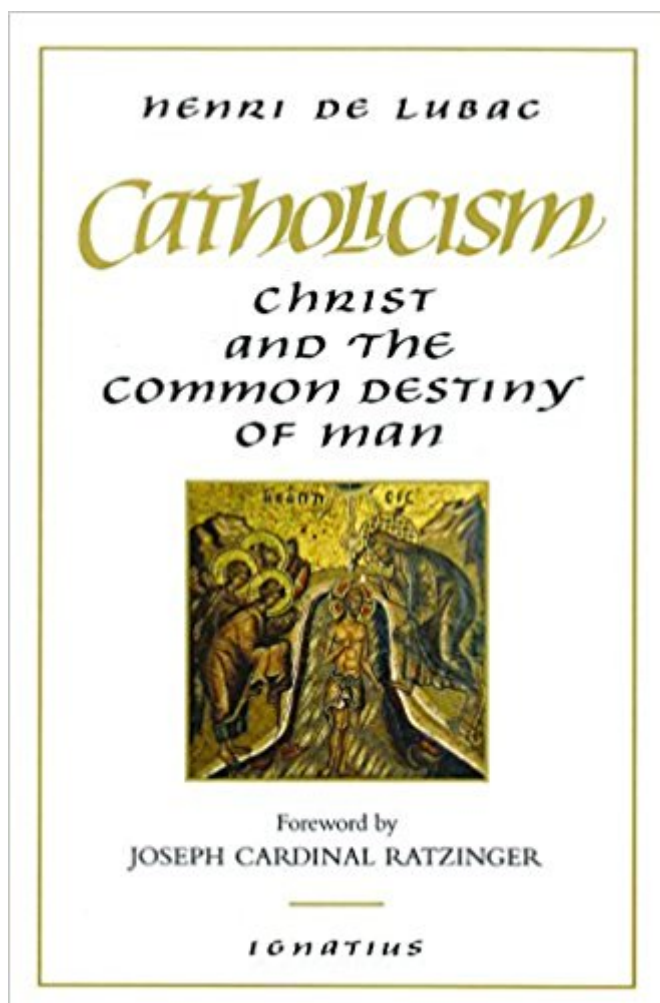


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Catholicism: Christ And The Common Destiny Of Man



Synopsis

With a Foreword by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI This book first appeared just over fifty years ago. It is the pilgrimic work of one of the 20th century's greatest theologians. Deeply rooted in tradition, it breaks ground and sows seeds which will bear their fruit in the Second Vatican Council's central documents on the Church. Here, Henri de Lubac, one of the giants of 20th century theology, gathers from throughout the breadth and length of Catholic tradition elements which he synthesizes to show the essentially social and historical character of the Catholic Church and how this worldwide and age-long dimension of the Church is the only adequate matrix for the fulfillment of the person within society and the transcendence of the person towards God. This book is a classic that deserves to be read and reread by every educated Catholic. "For me, the encounter with this book became an essential milestone on my theological journey. For in it de Lubac does not treat merely isolated questions. He makes visible to us in a new way the fundamental intuition of Christian Faith so that from this inner core all the particular elements appear in a new light." Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI "Few of our living authors have given us a work at once so profound, so apt and so persuasive as this of the great French Jesuit. Certainly, few could have written the book on the basis of such a rich knowledge of the Christian tradition.... De Lubac's thought has the originality which springs from the contact with a great tradition of a brilliant, deep and charitable mind. And it has a contemporaneity that bears witness to a profound, all-embracing, human concern." -Dom Christopher Butler, Abbot of Downside "We cannot leave it without referring to its almost incredible comprehensiveness of view. De Lubac writes of the Church in such a way as to allow fully for the truth there is in Protestant or Liberal views of the Christian society." -Church Times

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Customer Reviews

Text: English Original Language: French

(1896-1991) A leading figure in twentieth-century RomanCatholicism. He was named a cardinal by Pope John Paul Ilin the mid-1980s.

Considered one of the most important books of 20th Century Catholic theology, this book is incredible. I was amazed at De Lubac's knowledge and handling of the Church Fathers. I came away with a deeper understanding of the social nature of Catholicism and the underpinnings of Communion theology. The only complaints I have are that a) there are too many footnotes and b)as someone whose Latin is very rusty and wasn't that good to begin with the Latin in the footnotes was almost worthless. I hope they come out with a translation that includes translations of the footnotes. The Appendix with excerpts, mainly of the Fathers, is great too.Pick this book up and savor it.

de Lubac does a wonderful job of connecting the Catholic faith with the early church fathers. His discussions are well put together and allow the reader to understand the continuity of faith from the era of Augustine, Origen, Ignatius of Antioch. We are a faith, but we are also The Body of Christ himself. Christian belief is not merely internal, it is social and external as well. A well formed faith will spread into the public arena.I recommend this book. Its influence on modern Catholic spirituality is important. If you want to understand the Catholic Church and its basic theology of the 20th Century, you should read this book.

This was recommended in our parish Theology Guild. It's clear, but not easy, dense with footnotes but also with revelatory insights. I can see now why Cardinal de Lubac was so important to the deliberations at Vatican II. Catholics looking for a fresh perspective on their Church -- and others curious about how the Church sees itself -- need to read this book.

great for understanding Catholicism

Henri de Lubac may just be the father (although unsung) of modern Catholic theology. "Catholicism:

Christ and the Common Destiny of Man" is clearly an example of this. Jesus Christ is not some long gone historic figure, but lives on in the Church - the Mystical Body of Christ. The common destiny of man is to live on in this living Christ. Criticism of the difficulty in reading de Lubac are somewhat unfounded in that, the important nuances that separates simplistic understanding of Church, theology, and doctrine from a more profound understanding often require complexity. I welcome the difficulty should it provide a greater insight into the meaning of Church as the Living Body. Although written from a Catholic perspective, de Lubac's engagement of the patristic teachers transcends the Orthodox-Catholic-Protestant divide. I would challenge all those who are serious about faith, doctrine, theology, and ecumenism to explore this book and "entertain" the possibility of the meaning of Church - that which our fathers and mothers in the faith deeply understood and embraced. Reviewed by: Dr. Jeffrey Wincel (D.Min), author of "Climbing The Mountain of God, The Path to Mystical Discipleship", "Surviving the Fall, America's Second Great Depression Defying the Trend: Business Ethics and Corporate Morality from a Faith Perspective" and "Defying the Trend, Business Ethics and Corporate Morality from a Faith Perspective."

Very good book. College material.

I am only beginning my studies in *Roman* Catholicism, but this book has certainly opened my eyes to some of the great riches and insights of a "catholic" way of thinking. For de Lubac, people are fundamentally *social* beings and the saving work of Christ is a saving work of humanity first, individuals second (hence the subtitle). The point of the Church is to be a witness to the common, shared humanity of man by bringing us all together into the body of Christ. The [Roman] Catholic church embodies this intention of God - that all would be one - more so than any other ideology, religion or church. Interestingly enough, for de Lubac unity does not mean uniformity but, instead, presupposes difference. De Lubac does believe that the Holy Spirit continues to speak through the Pope today just as the Holy Spirit spoke through the Apostles; given this, any notion of catholicity that denies the primacy of the the Papacy would not fit into de Lubac's vision. Although it is too easy and too common to place the community over and above the individual, de Lubac places the individual within the community by recognizing that the difference between individuals is what allows unity-within-difference to exist. The individual communes with God and with others; the point of the Church is to bring the people together, before God, and therefore also face to face with one another. This, however, is also the first limitation of de Lubac's vision: it does not get into the *reality* of the divisions between the Churches that are Catholic - Anglican, Orthodox and Roman Catholic -

and does not really engage the reality of Protestantism/s/s/s/s/... De Lubac gives a beautiful vision of the Church as pure, undefiled and united. The reality of brining together the broken church is never explored, however. The second problem with this book is the utter *lack* of translated footnotes! The book is probably half footnotes, many of which are simply left in Latin. It makes for a fairly maddening read at points, especially since it is obvious that de Lubac really knows his stuff. He is deeply rooted within the spirituality of [Roman] Catholicism; not being able to read who he thought was worth citing keeps the reader from being able to grasp the full depth and breadth of his thought. De Lubac's writing is a fresh engagement with the Fathers of the Church, primarily, but he also engages Scripture and the Scholastics. He has a nearly 70-page appendix of citations from various works of the Fathers (and yes, they are all translated into English), which helps the reader understand better his view of the Church. Catholicism: Christ and the Common Destiny of Man is a brilliant synthesis of ancient and new theology and ecclesiology that will help the reader gain a far greater insight into what it means to be an individual that is a part of the community called the Catholic (universal) church.

theres some underlinging through out the book, but not much at all. its in really good shape for a used book.

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