Blue and White Nativity

This contemporary nativity set consists of 10 individual pieces each painted in shades of blue and white. Each painted piece is a combination of smooth clean lines and textural patterns in round, squared and rounded shapes, along with gold leaf accents. The figurines also bear a3-message printed into their garments: on Mary, “The perfect LIGHT”; Joseph, “star of WONDER”; King No. 1, “gift of FAITH”; King No. 2, “gift of HOPE”; and King No. 3, “gift of LOVE.” Made of perfect LIGHT;

WeHoPE to have many family Christmas celebrations by Order: To order: angelicopress.org

A Look at Karol Wojtyla the Writer

They say that the Spanish cardinals who showed up for the second council of 1979 had copies of Amor y Responsabilidad (Love and Responsibility) in their suitcases. I don’t know if that’s true, but I certainly agree with Krysztof Dyrzych who, in this book’s epilogue, writes: “Charnologically, Karol Wojtyla was first a writer, then a Catholic priest, and finally the Pope.” Without his writings in a variety of literary forms and styles, from poetry and drama to sermons and philosophical and theological treatises, he would not have become the head of the Catholic Church.”

Carols With the Dominican Sisters

In anticipations of Christmas, we offer our readers a selection of gift ideas that honor Jesus—the first and best Christmas gift. (Please refer to changes.)

Carols With the Dominican Sisters

With an average age of 30, this young community of sisters is part of many Christmas celebrations by our caroling in the background.” She said, “It is always a lot of fun, but also a lot of work. For the Pastores, it is another way to celebrate Christmas, and so the process was more

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CHILDREN’S FEST NATIVITY SET
Young children will delight in the anticipation of Christmas as they re-enact the story of Jesus’ birth with this 24-piece plush Nativity set. What a wonderful way to keep the focus of activities on the Advent season for Christmas joy! Set in its own handcrafted nativity stand, it’s the ideal Advent gift for the home or church. Includes Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, angels, and manger setting. Item: BB820, $4.95.

CHILD'S NATIVITY PIECE SET
This youthful nativity includes Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, as well as an angel, the Wise Men, a shepherd, a lamb, a donkey and a stable. The stable measures 8 inches tall. Made of resin, fragmented for display only. Item: S04144, $19.95.

WOOD CHILDREN'S NATIVITY SET
This 14-piece set is made in faithful woods designed to be handled, played with and enjoyed by a young child’s first nativity set. The brightly colored, 3-dimensional and figurative pieces are designed to fit easily in a child's hands and retain their imagination as they re-enact the Christmas story over and again. The high-quality construction and natural paint make this a safe and durable set that will last for years of Advent and Christmas fun. Stable measures 9 1/2 inches tall, and the standing figures measure 3 inches tall. Item: BMSET1, $15.

BAMINELLI'S SUNDAY: A CHRISTMAS BLESSING BOOK
Amy Whealon tells the story of five little boys, Alexander, and what he learns about family, faith and love in this special, one-time, dated edition. Written for children ages 7-10, this is a wonderful story about sharing, comfort, generosity and forgiveness, told through the lens of a long-standing Italian tradition. The stunning artwork and beautiful illustrations will make this a treasured tradition for every Advent and Christmas season. Glossy hardcover. 32 pages. Item: 36649, $15.

NEWGARD! THE BOY WHO BECAME SANTA DUD
This continues the adventures of young Nicholas as a young child as he discovers the gift of giving. Includes English, Spanish and French audio. One disc. 30 minutes. Item: A03D, $15.

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Musical Selections for Your Gift List

BY TRENT BEATTIE

Latin Mass Priests’ Release Requiem

The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter’s Benedictine album topped the Billboard “Classical” chart earlier this year by finding a home among those seeking to make sense of the end of life. Far from being a morbid or desperate search for meaning beyond the grave, the requiem serves listeners to peacefully approach God with humility and hope.

The album, which to the friars the fraternity has done with De Montfort Missal, contains the sung prayers for the traditional Latin Mass and burial of the dead, along with two motets at the end—one from Giovanni Battista Martini and the other from Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. These motets help to round out the music for the Mass and burial of the dead, along with the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Agnus Dei, Sanctus, Pange Lingua, Salve Regina, and Ave Maris Stella. 

The recordings (from left) feature our Lady of Fatima, the Our Lady of the Americas, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. 

Three-piece set.

To order: demontfortmusic.com.

Item: 13834, $29.

Handcrafted with love and prayer, these beautiful bracelets are perfect gifts for the upcoming Holiday Season.

WEAR ONE.
BE ONE.
SHARE ONE.

Our Lady of Fatima

The St. Cecilia Choir at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago, under the direction of Father Peter B. Harty, of the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, recently released an album of Renaissance polyphonic music written by Portuguese composers. It is called Renaissance Polyphony for Our Lady of Fatima. Francisco Guerra (technically is Spanish but associated with Portugal) is probably the best known of the album’s composers, and four of 12 tracks belong to him.

Listeners will be pleased with Guerra’s rendition of Dilucidum Mariae, a well-known sacred Marian song. The better-known songs, however, are mostly taken care of by such composers as Duarte Lobo, Duarte de Melo, and Manuel Rodrigues Coelho. Their versions of Regina Coeli (of God), Salve Regina, and Ave Maria will encourage listeners to think of the Queen of Heaven, who is also the Star of the Sea for the prayerful Christian.

Project is what most of this album is about, since sacred polyphony is inimitably a heavenly art. Adding to the beauty of the ensembles, however, is a short folk song accompanied by hand drums. Its title is “Sahi。” Ornate is the Latin American, which evokes heavenly themes.

The listener is drawn by the album’s music from his ordinary surroundings to reflect upon the corner sitting in his called to.

Track 5 (Virgin Benedetta San Pietro) is a short folk song accompanied by hand drums. One might expect some (unchorographed) chart found the preponderant polyphony, which the album has, but a folk song is another matter.

Moreover, the vast majority of the album is appropriate for many occasions, perhaps most notably as background music for the recitation of the Rosary. So much and so little over an hour make it ideal for praying three sets of mysteries, one for the monks of St. John Cantius.”

To order: paracletepress.com.

Item: 524C, $15.

Our Lady of Fatima

Be purchased with their own Our Lady of Fatima. 

SHARE ONE.

CANTONES IN ECCLESIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

In May 2016, the Benedictine community at the Abbey of Santa Maria della Scala in Faenza, Italy, released an album of Palestrina’s motets for the first time in every parish. 

Gregorian chant today), it is actually extraordinary as far as quality (singing, scoring and splitting) and numbers (not many parishes sing them anywhere). 

The recordings (from left) feature Our Lady of Fatima, the Our Lady of the Americas, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. 

Three-piece set.

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GOLD AND IVORY CHRISTMAS ANGEL NATIVITY

The Holy Family features the Holy Family enveloped in the golden robes of an advent angel. This piece wonderfully draws attention to the true meaning of the Christmas season. Jesus. Made of resin, it measures 10 1/2 inches tall x 6 inches wide x 4 inches deep. $49.95.

BABY JESUS PORCELAIN ORNAMENT

With its glossy white surface and soft colors, this delicate Christmas ornament depicts Baby Jesus swaddled in a blue cloth kept in the manger suspended by silver twine from a gold metallic thread. It measures 3 1/2 inches tall x 2 1/2 inches long x 1 1/2 inches wide; from top to bottom, it measured 4 1/2 inches. Includes ribbon for hanging and comes in a gift box with the beautiful sentiment on the box: “Jesus, the light of our Christmas, the joy of our hearts, the hope of our world.” Item: 30530, $12.

PEACE, HOPE AND LOVE ORNAMENT SET

This set of three porcelain Christmas ornaments includes a dove, a heart and a star. Each has a lace texture on the front, a glossy finish across each is the sentiment the shape symbolizes painted in a bluish-green tint and trimmed in gold. Written in a box: “Jesus is the light of our Christmas, the joy of our hearts, and comes in a gift box with this beautiful sentiment on the front.” Item: 33821X, $19.50. measure approximately 3 1/2 inches each.

This set of three porcelain Christmas ornaments includes a large star with a sparkling rhinestone in the center. Crib measures 2 inches tall x 2 1/2 inches long x 1 1/2 inches wide; from top to bottom, it measured 4 1/2 inches. Includes ribbon for hanging and comes in a gift box with the beautiful sentiment on the box: “Jesus is the light of our Christmas, the joy of our hearts, the hope of our world.” Item: 30530, $12.

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I am happy to see how many of the people we have met thought of themselves as spiritual people. In fact, when we asked them what they thought of themselves, they would always say, “I am spiritual.” And they would go on to explain how they were spiritual in their own way. They would talk about their experiences with God, their meditation practices, and their participation in spiritual retreats. But when we asked them to define what it means to be spiritual, many of them struggled to come up with a clear answer.

So, what does it mean to be spiritual? Is it simply about feeling good or experiencing a sense of peace and tranquility? Or is there a deeper meaning to spirituality that goes beyond our emotions and sensations? In this book, I explore the concept of spirituality and offer a perspective on how we can cultivate a deeper understanding of our spiritual lives.

The Light of Christ

Pierces the Darkness of Emotionalism

BY FATHER PAUL SCALIA

The Light of Christ
An Introduction to Catholicism
By Thomas Joseph White, OP
The Catholic University of America Press, 2017
322 pages. $35.00. In order: amazon.com

Father Rattray, the average reader will find The Light of Christ more accessible.

Still, the word Introduction might mislead some people. The book is not an introduction. But that does not mean it is simplistic or effortless reading. Perhaps we do better to consider the book an introduction not just to Catholic teaching, but to Catholic thinking—a how-to on Catholic thought.

The book is more than a classroom manual. More than an apologists manual. Father White conveys not just what the Church believes, nor why she believes, but also — and more importantly, in our culture — how she thinks about these things. The Light of Christ cultivates in the reader not just knowledge, but a habit of thought.

Father White teaches at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He also runs The Thomistic Institute, a great organization that seeks to engage the culture in serious conversations and bring Catholic teaching to contemporary situations.

Not surprisingly, he follows St. Thomas Aquinas’ lead. He presumes that Thomistic confidence in honest intellectual inquiry. He displays the Angelic Doctor’s willingness to engage questions — and some of the most difficult — about the faith. Indeed, like his patron, Father Thomas White always takes contemporary questions seriously, presenting them fairly and respectfully. At the same time, the book is also imbued with the spirit of St. Augustine and Blessed John Henry Newman — that is, with their ammission to the longings, sensations and wounds of the human heart.

Thus Father White examines Catholic teaching from the perspective of human reason and Divine Revelation. But he also looks at it from within the human heart — from what man’s personal desires and questions can touch us and where they point us. Which is to say that The Light of Christ is both thoughtful and personal.

This is no dry recitation of the Church’s what’s and wherefores. It is more the genuine instinct and intuition of the Church, as well. It creeps in andupto engage the culture, then emotion trumps and feeling. And when we yield to and doctrine to mere experience tempts us to reduce matters of faith and Church, as well. It creeps in andupto engage the culture, then emotion trumps and feeling. And when we yield to and doctrine to mere experience tempts us to reduce matters of faith

The First Noel

Wind-up Christmas Music Box

This large and festive flower pot is a great way to share a gift that keeps on giving! The delightful scene inside features the angelic figure of the First Noel that Jesus is the reason for the season. From the师的 Back to Basics Christmas collection, this figur—\n
Let’s allow ourselves to teach hope, to faithfully await the coming of the Lord.

— Pope Francis, Advent 2018
Attention All Priests!

You can bless your volunteers with a Christmas gift subscription to the Register.

“The last time I saw Mary, she was in the hospital,” a pastor wrote in a letter about his former parishioner. “She had just been diagnosed with cancer and was facing her final days. As a pastor, I felt helpless. There was nothing I could do to make her feel better or to change her situation. But I knew one thing for sure: I could give her a gift that would brighten her day and bring her comfort.”

That’s why we’re offering you the chance to give a gift that truly matters. A Christmas gift subscription to the National Catholic Register is a thoughtful gesture that can bring joy and inspiration to those who have made a difference in your community.

Your gift subscription will be $49.95 and each additional subscription is just $39.95. You can order by phone at 1-800-621-1621, or online at ewtnrc.com. Thank you for your generosity and your support of Catholic education.

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Using Christmastime to Share the Gift of Faith

Keep your faith in Christmas. Use EWTN’s Christmas Branded Card to give the gift of faith this holiday season. EWTN’s branded cards are available in denominations of $25, $50, and $100. You can purchase them online at ewtn.com or by phone at 1-800-621-1621.

Christmas 2017

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST,
GETTYSBURG, PA

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