

FICTION

No Lifeguard on Duty

Author: Amy M. Bennett

Publisher: Oak Tree Press

Release Date: April 2014

ISBN: 978-1-61009-151-0

Word Count: 95000

Synopsis: Corrie Black, owner of the Black Horse Campground in Bonney County, NM, is ready to welcome the summer camping season with a party at the campground swimming pool. The shock of discovering Krista Otero's body in the pool the next morning is bad enough... what's worse is that her death wasn't an accident. Despite opposition from Bonney County's finest, Corrie is determined to find out who used her pool as a murder weapon and who is using her campground as a base for illegal activities. But someone wants to keep her out of their business... even if it means killing again!

SOA Awarded: 1st Quarter 2015

Who is Jesus? 1st Century Eyewitnesses Tell Their Stories

Author: Cheryl Ann Wills

Publisher: Lumen Christi Press

Release Date: 12/10/2013

ISBN: 978-0692326770

Word Count: 49110

Synopsis: The stories in this book are told by people who met Jesus in the Gospels. The material is based on stories in the Bible. They have been developed through the author's application of imaginative prayer, as well as meditation. The stories do not pretend to be Scripture, nor are they to be used as replacement of Scripture. Ed Wills translated all passages from their original text; some of those translations were paraphrased by the author. As historical fiction, the book intends to educate. The stories accurately reflect that era's culture and historical context. The purpose of this book is to imagine what a First Century person who met Jesus might have thought and felt, and the impact that encounter may have produced.

SOA Awarded: 1st Quarter 2015

Catholic Philosopher Chick Comes On Strong

Author: Rebecca Bratten Weiss and Regina Doman

Publisher: Chesterton Press

Release Date: December 2014

ISBN:10:978-0-9899411-5-0

Word Count: 100000

Synopsis: Cate's returned for her second year of grad school with a slimmer figure and a new boyfriend, to face the dreaded Qualifying Exams, while figuring out what to do when her friend Dani (and Dani's sour roommate Felicity) are suddenly homeless. Plus there's Portia's theatrical woes, Mary Clare's delicious but too-fattening cooking, and...oh yes, someone's vandalizing the books in the University's library. Is the militant atheist group on campus guilty?

But at least Cate's found true love at last... or has she? There's trouble in paradise...

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

The Lion's Heart

Author: Dena Hunt

Publisher: Full Quiver Publishing

Release Date: June 25, 2014

ISBN: 978-0987915375

Word Count: 54786

Synopsis: Paul Meyer has never let anyone get too close. Until Max. The Lion's Heart is a heart-rending story about love and sacrifice. The emotional struggle of Paul's same-sex attraction, the guilt he feels, and his ambivalence toward his Catholic faith all come together in this look inside the heart of a tortured man.

"Dena Hunt is a consummate story-teller who does not shirk or shy away from the difficult questions about life and love that her story raises. The Lion's Heart contains not only the loves of lovers, spouses, parents, and children but also the demons and dragons that selfishness unleashes. The Lion's Heart is not for the faint-hearted, nor is it for the hard-hearted. It pulsates with a passion that will bring true hearts to their knees." Joseph Pearce, author of *The Unmasking of Oscar Wilde*, co-editor of the *St. Austin Review*

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

End of the Road

Author: Amy M. Bennett

Publisher: Dark Oak Mysteries

Release Date: July 10, 2013

ISBN:10: 1610090713/978-1610090711

Word Count: 258 pages

Synopsis: Corrie Black, owner of the Black Horse Campground, hopes for a successful start to her summer season but the discovery of Marvin Landry, a long-time guest, shot dead in his own RV, along with \$50,000 in cash missing, does not herald a good beginning... especially since the victim's handicapped wife and angry stepson seem to have little interest in discovering who murdered him. Was Marvin's murder planned or just convenient? And is the appearance of a mysterious biker with a shadowy past that includes a recently deceased wife merely a coincidence? Despite opposition from former flame, Sheriff Rick Sutton, Corrie is determined to find out who murdered her guest. But will she find out who is friend or foe before the murderer decides it's the end of the road for Corrie?

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

The Paradise Project

Author: Suzie Andres

Publisher: Hillside Education

Release Date: June 26, 2015

ISBN:10: 978-0-9906720-6-7

Word Count: 75000

Synopsis: Have you ever kept a New Year's Resolution? Elizabeth Benning hasn't, but she's determined that this will be her year. Like Elizabeth Bennet before her, Liz Benning doesn't work, lives at home, and takes pride in her resourcefulness, but when she resolves on a yearlong project to be happier, it looks like her ambition has outrun her abilities...Enter a love interest more conniving than Wickham, a blonde cold enough to freeze out Caroline Bingley, and Elizabeth's paradise project is heading for disaster. She's never been so unhappy, but if she can discover which hero is straight out of her beloved Jane Austen, she might yet take the prize for happiest ever after.

SOA Awarded: 4th Quarter 2015

YOUNG ADULT, MIDDLE GRADE, & CHILDREN'S

The Well

Author: Stephanie Landsem

Publisher: Howard Books/Simon & Schuster

Release Date: 6/4/2013

ISBN: 978-1451688856

Word Count: 90100

Synopsis: Could he be the One we've been waiting for?

For the women of the Samaritan village of Sychar, the well is a place of blessing—the place where they gather to draw their water and share their lives—but not for Mara. Shunned for the many sins of her mother, Nava, Mara struggles against the constant threats of starvation or exile.

Mara and Nava's lives are forever changed with the arrival of two men: Shem, a mysterious young man from Caesarea, and Jesus, a Jewish teacher. Nava is transformed by Jesus, but his teachings come too late and she is stoned by the unforgiving villagers. Desperate to save her dying mother, Mara and Shem embark on a journey to seek Jesus' help—a journey that brings unexpected love and unimaginable heartbreak.

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

Saint Magnus The Last Viking

Author: Susan Peek

Publisher: Catholic Vitality Publications

Release Date: February 2014

ISBN: 978-0-9796301-2-5

Word Count: 67000

Synopsis: The first novel in Susan Peek's exciting new series: "God's Forgotten Friends: Lives of Little-known Saints."

Come back in time 900 years to the fierce and desolate Northern lands, where Norsemen ruled with ax and sword. A dying king, a shocking deathwish, his heirs divided with an oath of blood...

In this fast-paced novel, the conflict unfolds between Magnus Erlendson, a heroic young prince aflame with the love of God, and his outlawed cousin Hakon, who blames Magnus for his banishment from their kingdom. What follows is a tale of betrayal and revenge, bravery and forgiveness, as Magnus seeks to restore his father's vanquished kingdom to its rightful hands.

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

Near Occasions (John Paul 2 High Book 5)

Author: Christian M. Frank

Publisher: Chesterton Press

Release Date: December 13, 2014

ISBN: ASIN: B00R06JBT8

Word Count: 259 pages

Synopsis: School's back in session at John Paul 2 High, and for students J.P. and Liz, not much could be worse.

The little start-up school where both their moms teach has doubled its number of students, bringing in a gaggle of clueless freshmen, singing charismatics, and annoying personages. For Liz, the major annoyance is Mary Summers, her old rival for Brian's affection. For J.P., it's a Byzantine Catholic named Athanasius Courchraine who somehow manages to be even cooler than J.P.

With Celia pushing the gag-inducing idea of creating a Catholic "community" in the midst of formal education, both kids escape to a place where religion is off the table-- Sparrow Hills High.

Then, as Liz joins the cheer team and J.P. becomes the school mascot, they start hearing rumors about the school shooting that happened at Sparrow Hills last spring. The police say the shooter is dead... but is he?

Unable to resist a challenge, Liz and J.P. get on the case. But the more they investigate the hazier the police evidence seems. And if the Sparrow Hills Shooter is still out there, no one is safe...

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

Rosa, Sola

Author: Carmela A. Martino

Publisher: Candlewick

Release Date: August 9, 2005

ISBN: 978-0763623951

Word Count: 133 pages

Synopsis: Living with her Italian immigrant parents in 1960s Chicago, nine-year-old Rosa, an only child, often feels SOLA and different. But as soon as she holds her friend AnnaMaria's baby brother for the first time, Rosa is sure that if she prays hard enough, God will give her a sibling too. Amazingly, Ma does get pregnant, and Rosa is overjoyed — until the awful day comes when she learns that her brother was

stillborn, and Ma, who is weak and grieving, must stay in the hospital for a while. With her papa bitter and rarely home, and her bossy aunt Ida in charge, Rosa has an "empty cave" feeling and now is more SOLA than ever. Why would God answer her prayers, only to take her baby brother away? Will her broken family ever be happy again?

From first-time novelist Carmela A. Martino comes a note-perfect portrait of a sensitive young girl surrounded by an extended family of loyal relatives, neighbors, and friends. Challenged by loss and ultimately bolstered by hope, Rosa will win readers' hearts as she makes the discovery that she's not alone — and that love and kinship are sometimes found in the most unexpected places.

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

The Confession of Grace

Author: Pamela Patnode

Publisher: Philomena Press

Release Date: September 2013

ISBN: 9780989905107

Word Count: 6,340

Synopsis: Second-grader, Grace O'Malley, is excited to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time - until her close friend Anna asks, "Why do you have to do that? At my church we just tell Jesus our sins. Does the Bible say you have to do that?" This sends Grace on a fact finding mission filled with emotional ups and downs. Elementary students will devour this page-turning, age-appropriate book while learning important truths about our Catholic faith.

What makes this book unique is that it is not just another text book or instructional manual. Rather, it teaches children about the Sacrament using the most effective teaching method around: story-telling! The illustrations are delightful, the story is rich with endearing characters, and above all, it teaches the Faith through the context of the story!

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

Non-fiction—Children's/YA

Counting on Faith

Author: Maurice Prater

Publisher: Divine Providence Press

Release Date: December 2014

ISBN: 13:978-0692234334

Word Count: 888

Synopsis: Counting on Faith is a scriptural counting book for children. Children will learn to count while learning their Catholic Faith because each number represents an important truth found in Scripture. Written to be enjoyed by the entire family, Counting on Faith will stir the soul and inspire the mind. In

addition to an endorsement by Dr. Ray Guarendi, Counting on Faith has a Foreword by Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan and a Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur from The Most Reverend David D. Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck.

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

Faith & Life

Author: Cailin Garfunkel

Publisher: Premier Agendas

Release Date: 6/1/2015

ISBN: 978-1-63080-085-7

Word Count: 11000

Synopsis: Faith & Life Supports Faith Development and Academic Success

Provides support and reinforcement of the Catholic theology and history while inspiring students to live out their faith.

- Develop essential planning and character skills while inspiring students to apply Catholic Virtues
- Provides students with daily reminders and faith encouragement
- Reinforces Catholic Church theology and history
- Daily planning tools
- Invites students to explore their faith through real-life stories and biblical references
- Strengthens the learning community through home-to-school communication tools

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

NONFICTION

Your Faith Has Made You Well: Jesus Heals in the New Testament

Author: Barbara Hosbach

Publisher: Paulist Press

Release Date: 9/23/2014

ISBN: 9780809148882

Word Count: 30608

Synopsis: "Your Faith Has Made You Well: Jesus Heals in the New Testament" explores gospel stories of healing and what they mean for us today. Each chapter begins with a scripture quote and takes a down to earth look at what those involved might have experienced. Questions for reflection and a closing prayer at the end of each chapter help readers identify with the story in a personal way.

SOA Awarded: 1st Quarter 2015

Daddy, Come & Get Me

Author: Gil Michelini

Publisher: Emiliani Publishing

Release Date: 5/18/2011

ISBN: 1463513267

Word Count: 67000

Synopsis: "Daddy, Come & Get Me: a dad's adventure through a Guatemalan adoption" tells two stories about one girl. Author Gil Michelini tells how he led his family through the process of adopting a daughter of Guatemala. Using the official Guatemalan adoption documents, along with assistance of those familiar with the Guatemalan culture, Michelini includes a plausible story of his daughter's life in Guatemala and how her birthmother came to the decision to relinquish her for adoption. This story is included to illustrate and honor the sacrifice one woman endured for the sake of her daughter.

SOA Awarded: 1st Quarter 2015

Seven Saints for Seven Virtues

Author: Jean M. Heimann

Publisher: Servant

Release Date: 10/7/2014

ISBN: 978-1-61636-845-6

Word Count: 30000

Synopsis: To live a virtuous life might seem like a daunting task, but we are fortunate to have examples to follow—the saints who have faced sin through the embodiment and exemplification of virtue. Readers will meet seven saints who lived seven virtues, and will discover concrete ways that they can live those virtues in their own lives. Each chapter includes:

- A quote from the saint
- A personal reflection on each saint
- A brief biography
- A discussion on the spirituality of each saint, and concrete examples how to emulate this saint and grow in the virtue that saint models
- A prayer to conclude each chapter, asking for the intercession of that saint

Seven Saints for Seven Virtues covers a wide range of spirituality and life circumstances, demonstrating that everyone, in every role of life, has the opportunity to live a virtuous life.

SOA Awarded: 1st Quarter 2015

A Catholic Gardeners Spiritual Almanac

Author: Margaret Rose Realy

Publisher: Ave Maria Press

Release Date: 3/20/2015

ISBN: 13: 978-1594714849

Word Count: 288 pages

Synopsis: A Catholic Gardener's Spiritual Almanac is the first book to offer gardeners spiritual resources and creative projects that connect a love of gardening with their Catholic faith. The author presents this spiritual companion that follows the natural and liturgical seasons and offers gardening tips and easy-to-do projects for each month of the year. It offers meditations and scripture passages on a spiritual theme for each month, reflections on the liturgical seasons and feasts, and delightful stories of saints who have special relevance to gardening.

SOA Awarded: 2nd Quarter 2015

A Spiritual Growth Plan for Your Choleric Child

Author: Connie Rossini

Publisher: Four Waters Press

Release Date: May 15, 2015

ISBN: 978-0692431566

Word Count: 37000

Synopsis: Does your child burst with energy, self-confidence, and determination? Does he struggle with pride, anger, and a desire to control everything and everyone around him? *A Spiritual Growth Plan for Your Choleric Child* explains the temperamental roots of your child's behavior. Designed to help Catholic parents raise virtuous children, it offers parenting tips, templates, and a handful of lesson plans.

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

Victorious Exile

Author: Echo Lewis

Publisher: Madonna House Publications

Release Date: February, 2013

ISBN: 978-1-897145-37-1

Word Count: 36, 712

Synopsis: *Victorious Exile* is the biography of Servant of God Catherine Doherty (Katya Kolyschkine), a refugee from the Russian Revolution of the early 20th century. Katya became a pioneer in Catholic Lay Action in North America, having journeyed through hardship, poverty, wealth and back to voluntary poverty for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

True Radiance: Finding Grace in the Second Half of Life

Author: Lisa Mladinich

Publisher: Servant Books/Franciscan Media

Release Date: October 16, 2015

ISBN: 978-1-61636-907-1

Word Count: 46816

Synopsis: The promise of *True Radiance* is simple: Prayerful, faith-filled women become more beautiful as they age, not less. As a woman matures spiritually, as she grows in wisdom and holiness, she increasingly reflects a radiant inner beauty that touches others in countless ways. If you've ever felt negative about the onset of middle age with its array of physical and psychological challenges, this book can help you redefine your perception of aging. Along the way, you'll gain a greater understanding of the possibilities for relevance, value, and contribution waiting to be discovered. Positive, personal, and practical advice from fellow traveler Lisa Mladinich will inspire and motivate you to thrive in the second half of life.

SOA Awarded: 3rd Quarter 2015

Celebrating Advent and Christmas with Children: Food Celebrations with the Saints for Home and School

Author: Colleen Rooney

Publisher: Self

Release Date: November 2013

ISBN: 14904853

Word Count: 38,500

Synopsis: Celebrating Advent and Christmas with Children introduces your children to traditions and customs drawn from many cultures as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Learn to make an Advent Bread Dough Wreath or your own edible Advent Calendar. Your children will meet St. Nicholas, while they bake Speculaas cookies and other treats. But don't stop with St. Nicholas, there is a line-up of saints to keep the children busy with baking as your family or class prepares for the great celebration of the Savior's birth. When Christmas day is over, do you think the celebrations have finished? Celebrating Advent and Christmas with Children will convince you that Christmas is a season and not just one day!

SOA Awarded: 4th Quarter 2015

Poetry

Edgewater

Author: Arthur Powers

Publisher: Finishing Line Press

Release Date: June 25, 2015

ISBN: 9781622299157

Word Count: 3,200

Synopsis: Chapbook of literary poetry

SOA Awarded: 4th Quarter 2015

