



Spirit Renewal  
MINISTRIES

# Spirit Renewal Ministries

*A Ministry of Soul Care*



**W**e are writing to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas from all of your friends at Spirit Renewal Ministries. The year has slipped by so quickly and the blessed Christmas season is now upon us. We pause with friends and partners in Texas, Toronto, Kingston, Kenya, Curaçao, and Uganda too give thanks for each of you, and to remember all that has transpired this year. We have been very busy in all regions, with Toronto and Kingston hosting mid-week worship services and online support and chat groups. We are so thankful for the care and support from so many in Texas, including the annual fall cinnamon roll sale at *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church* in College Station. We are excited with all of the ongoing work in Kenya and Uganda with the final set-up of theological libraries in all regions, as well as expansion and growth in our ministries in East Africa.

**A**s we gather in our homes, communities, villages, towns, churches, and public spaces in this Advent and Christmas season, let our spirits be still and imagine ourselves as witnesses to the birth of the child Jesus in the tiny, unremarkable, manger setting in a small village in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago. *For unto us a child indeed has been born*, and we stop in this moment of gratitude to give thanks for His birth, and the life changing message of the Good News of the gospel - the news that has transformed the world. We are privileged to serve in this ministry.

*Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.* Romans 10: 17 NRSV

**A**s we enter the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves and our families for the coming of the Lord. The reading from Romans, Chapter 10, encourages us to proclaim by believing in our hearts and confessing with our mouths the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. Paul writes 'How beautiful are the feet who bring good news!' We are members of the global Christian community and heirs to the promise of the Anointed One, the One whose birth we celebrate in this season, the Christ who said, "Let the little children come to me" (Mk. 10:14).

**H**ow beautiful are the feet who feed the hungry; how beautiful are the feet who nurture the children; how beautiful are the feet who teach in His name and who clothe the naked; how beautiful are the feet of those who speak in the name of justice and free the oppressed. In this Advent and Christmas season, let us give thanks for families and communities who have us nourished us in body, mind, and spirit in the name of the blessed child, the Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

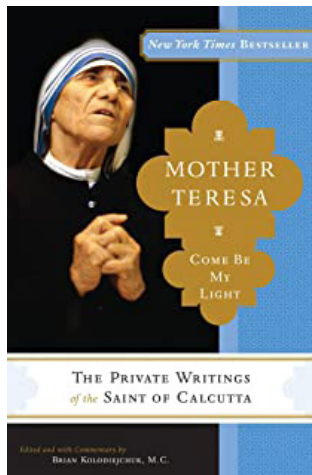
# “Remembering the 25th Anniversary of the Death of Saint Mother Teresa”



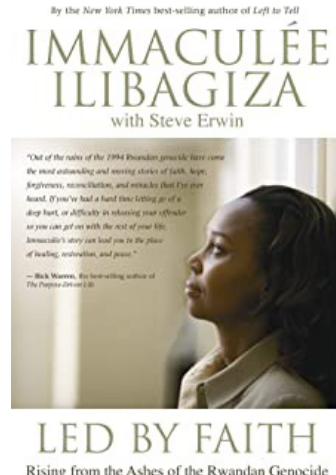
*“Mother Teresa often reminded us that ‘we cannot do great things, but only small things with great love.’”*

MUMBAI, India – The Missionaries of Charity are marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa by searching out “the poorest of the poor on the streets, in the stations... wherever they are alone and abandoned.” Mother Teresa died on Sept. 5, 1997, at the age of 87, and she was canonized by Pope Francis in 2016. In her message marking the anniversary, Sister Mary Joseph spoke about how the mission of Mother Teresa continues around the world. “Whether in India or abroad, our sisters regularly visit families, especially the elderly and shut-ins, those in prisons and hospitals, the most abandoned and lonely, bringing new hope to their lives.” SRM also serves with compassion and joy.

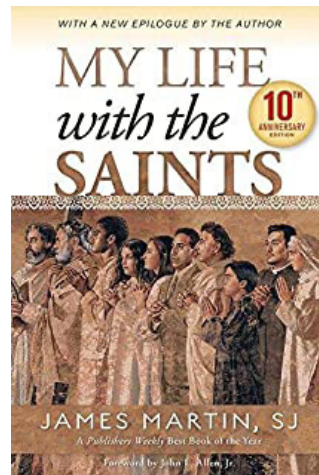
## Books of Note



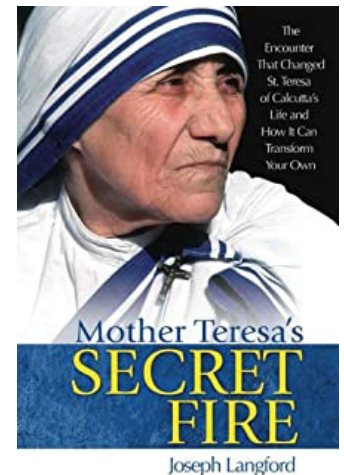
Saint Teresa emerges as a classic mystic whose inner life burned with the fire of charity and whose heart was tested and purified by an intense trial of faith, a true dark night of the soul.



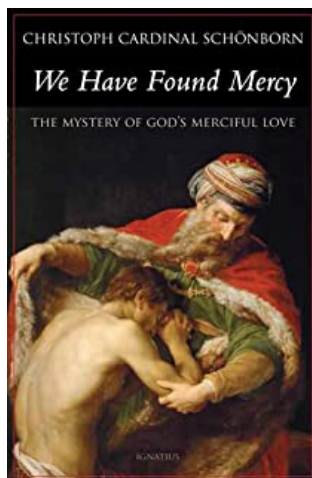
Through her simple and eloquent voice, we experience Immaculée’s hardships and heartache as she struggles to survive and to find meaning and purpose in the aftermath of the Rwandan holocaust.



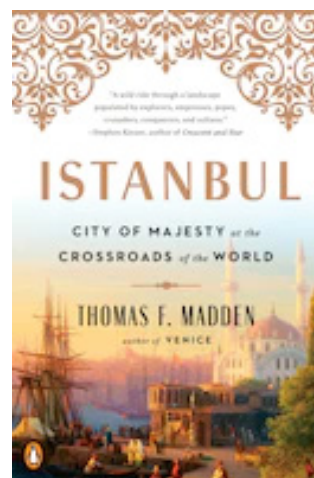
Fr. Martin’s funny, vibrant, and stirring book invites readers to discover how saints guide us throughout our earthly journeys and how they help each of us find holiness in our own lives.



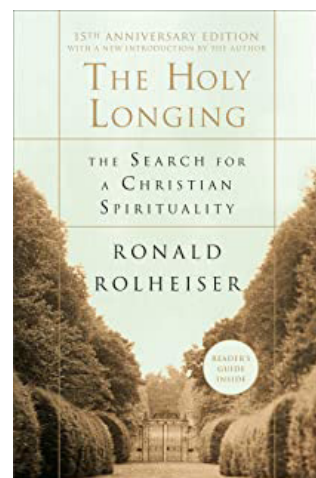
This book honours Mother Teresa’s personal request to share her message with the world. Gain unprecedented access and understanding to Mother Teresa’s secret source of passion, spirit, and impact.



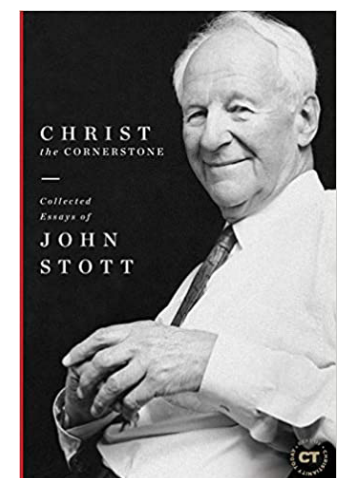
The message of Divine Mercy as communicated through the Polish Saint, Sister Faustina is both a starting point and a recurring theme for Cardinal Schönborn’s discussion of God’s merciful love.



This narrative shares the rich history of the city known as Byzantium, then Constantinople, now Istanbul. In the words of Napoleon Bonaparte, “If the Earth were a single state, Istanbul would be its capital.”



In *The Holy Longing*, Ronald Rolheiser probes the question “What is spirituality.” This is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand what Christian spirituality means and how to apply it to their own lives.



The late Anglican pastor John Stott—named as one of the 100 most influential people in 2005 by *Time* magazine—was committed to the notion that Jesus’ lordship has ramifications for all of life. A delightful read.