



# THE LIVING LIGHT

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SPECIAL FEATURE—

Sports as Religious Education



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# Contents

## **SPECIAL FEATURE: SPORTS AS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

---

- 6 A Hymn to Life: The Sports Theology of Pope John Paul II  
*Connie Lasher*
- 13 Disciple as Athlete  
*Timothy Friedrichsen*
- 21 Bart Giamatti's *Elysium*: Finding Life Truths and Paradise in the  
Game of Baseball  
*Rick Roder*
- 28 Sport as Ritual Performance  
*Margaret Mary Kelleher*
- 36 Youth Ministry through Sports:  
Rethinking the Nature of Competition  
*David Light Shields*
- 45 An Invitation to Adults: "Let's Talk Sports"  
*Frank Berna*
- 54 Becoming More Intentional with the Sacred Spaces in Sports  
*Mark S. Markuly*

## **ARTICLE**

---

- 70 *iBienvenidos!*: Welcoming Hispanics/Latinos to the Parish Community  
*John T. Ford, CSC*

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

---

- 79 Tristram Engelhardt, Jr., Ed. H.; and Mark J. Cherry. *Allocating Scarce  
Medical Resources: Roman Catholic Perspectives*  
(*rev. by Thomas P. Walters*)
- 81 Berrigan, Daniel; and Robert Coles. *The Geography of Faith: Underground  
Conversations on Religious, Political and Social Change*  
(*rev. by Kieran Scott*)

- 82 Gittins, Anthony J., CSSp. *Ministry at the Margins: Strategy and Spirituality for Mission*  
(rev. by J. G. Donders)
- 83 Block, Jennie Weiss. *Copious Hosting: A Theology of Access for People with Disabilities*  
(rev. by William Cenker)
- 85 De La Salle, John Baptist; ed. Alexis Doval; trans. Richard Arandez. *The Duties of a Christian to God*; and ed. Eugene Lappin, *Religious Instruction and Exercises of Piety for the Christian Schools*  
(rev. by Br. Jeffrey Gros, FSC)
- 88 Jenkins, Philip. *Hidden Gospels: How the Search for Jesus Lost Its Way*  
(rev. by Ken Ogorek)
- 89 Regan, Jane E. *Toward an Adult Church: A Vision of Faith Formation*  
(rev. by Thomas P. Walters)

#### **NEW AND NOTEWORTHY**

---

- 93 Oregon Catholic Press: *Disciples in Prayer: A Resource for Faith Sharing—Year B*  
Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry: *Cloud of Witnesses: Vocation*  
Huebsch: *Whole Community Catechesis in Plain English*  
Pilarczyk: *Live Letters: Reflections on the Second Readings of the Sunday Lectionary*  
Martin and Langford: *Professions of Faith: Living and Working as a Catholic*  
Mahan: *Forgetting Ourselves on Purpose: Vocation and Ethics of Ambition*  
Hansen, Coddington, and Simmons: *Cantor Basics: Revised Edition*  
Liturgical Training Publications: *Lectionary for Mass: Study Edition*  
Fuellenbach: *Church: Community for the Kingdom*

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

---

- 4 Editor's Foreword
- 95 Calendar
- 96 Department of Education News

This issue of *The Living Light* was unavoidably delayed by events beyond our control. We apologize for any difficulties this may have caused you.

*The Editors*

## **The Geography of Faith: Underground Conversations on Religious, Political and Social Change**

*by Daniel Berrigan and Robert Coles*  
Woodstock, Vt.: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2001  
188 pages, paper, \$16.95.

The drumbeats of war echo across the world. Who among us thirty years ago could have imagined the events of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath? Today the stage and many of the actors are different, but some of the main issues have remained constant. Can we learn the lessons that history has offered, or are we doomed to repeat its mistakes? This book is a reminder to never forget. It is also an interrogator of our moral sensibilities: What are our contemporary requirements as citizens in our historical and geographical context?

*The Geography of Faith* is the thirtieth-anniversary edition of a minor classic of faith-based activism for a new generation. The book takes us back across three decades and gives us a vivid sense of the climate of the time. In the early 1970s, this nation was at war, and Daniel Berrigan, a Jesuit priest and hunted fugitive, decided to take a stand of resistance against U.S. war policies in Vietnam. The book comprises a series of conversations from the underground between Berrigan and Robert Coles. Coles recorded the conversations (extending over a week) and gave them order and form. Berrigan soon after was arrested and imprisoned. But he had paused long enough with his conversational partner to attempt to make sense of his hopes and fears and to understand the truth of his life.

This genuine conversation involves speaking and listening, being assertive and receptive, and respectfully challenging each other's assumptions with regard to the discipline and practice of their respective professions. Coles gives certain coherence to the book by arranging the conversations under seven titled sections, put in no particular order of importance: families, pride and violence, living at the edge, the compassionate and political person, professional life, a critique of the orientation of psychiatry and priestly ministry, and the meaning of the "twice-born" person.

On the surface, some of the topics seem quite bland, but don't be fooled. This is a profound discernment about a nation during a trying time. The conversations are disclosing and revelatory, and they embody moral action. There are no absolutes here, and little of the ideologue. Rather, a healthy tentativeness, a deep passion, and a thirst for a lived truth are the hallmarks of this

divine dialogue. Most of all, it chronicles the struggle for moral awareness in two men called to be part of the history of goodness.

As they say, the more things change, the more they remain the same. A spiritual malaise was the sign of that time: families hooked on consumerism and parochialism (chapter one); self-centered professions and the courting of status and respectability (chapters five and six); the danger of celebrity and societal propensity for violence (chapter two); living in exile on the edge of society (chapter three); and the need to reclaim our radical baptismal countercultural vocation (chapter seven). This was *The Geography of Faith* thirty years ago. For Coles and Berrigan (who wrote a new introduction and afterword to this edition), the map seems to remain accurate today.

During the intervening thirty years, Coles and Berrigan have grown in wisdom, age, and godliness before our eyes. Never were their prophetic voices more needed than in our current history and geography. This is a book for the ages.

—Kieran Scott  
Fordham University  
New York, N.Y.

## **Ministry at the Margins: Strategy and Spirituality for Mission**

*by Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp*  
*Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books*  
*xii + 194 pages, paper, \$25.00.*

Fr. Anthony Gittins, CSSp, professor of missiology at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union, wrote this book on strategy and spirituality for mission not as a textbook but as a handbook for missionaries. This makes the book of particular interest to catechists.

The book begins by stating that Christians activating the Spirit of Jesus in their lives, as their Baptism intended them to do, are missionaries by virtue of their Baptism. We are involved in Christ's—in God's—mission. Christians, "Jesus fiends," cannot settle down when they want to be followers of the one who lived and died "to gather into one the dispersed children of God" (Jn 11:52).

All Christians are called to mission, the "greatest religious adventure," especially in our globalizing days. We have to leave our homeland for the world of others, in order to return home as if to a newfound land. To do this, we do not need to sojourn outside our own countries. We can find those margins of