



Volume 58 | Issue 2

Article 76

2015

Deely's "Pope John Paul II Speaks on Women" (Book Review)

Amy C. Rice
Northwest Nazarene University

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

Recommended Citation

Rice, Amy C. (2015) "Deely's "Pope John Paul II Speaks on Women" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 58: Iss. 2, Article 76.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1311>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

The Pilgrim's Regress: Wade Annotated Edition,

by C. S. Lewis, edited by David C. Downing. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014.
239 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 9780802872081

*Reviewed by Laura Rhoden, Library Director,
Carolina Christian College, Winston-Salem, NC*

A reprint of the first book written by C. S. Lewis after he became a Christian, *The Pilgrim's Regress: Wade Annotated Edition* helps readers better understand this rich allegory by providing notes of explanation for hundreds of otherwise obscure quotes and references contained within the book. Considered by Lewis to be an “updated version” of John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *The Pilgrim’s Regress* also follows one man’s spiritual journey and the spiritual dangers he faces along the way. Some of the more modern cultural fads, philosophies, and movements woven into the later narrative include humanism, Freudian psychology, and Marxism.

A critical introduction by editor David C. Downing supplies background information necessary for fully enjoying the narrative; his annotations presented throughout *The Pilgrim’s Regress* include not only explanations of unfamiliar quotations, terms, and allusions, but also references to other Lewis works, both published and unpublished.

The Wade Annotated Edition of *The Pilgrim’s Regress* succeeds in unveiling a previously difficult-to-read work. Fans of C. S. Lewis will appreciate fully understanding the first of his fictional allegories and its relation to his later works.

Pope John Paul II Speaks on Women,

edited by Brooke Williams Deely. Washington, DC: Catholic University
of America Press, 2014. 382 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 9780813226835

*Reviewed by Amy C. Rice, Access Services Librarian,
Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID*

Pope John Paul II Speaks on Women is a collection of his writings and speeches addressing many aspects of women’s lives. The editor, Brooke Williams Deely, suggests this will give readers a sense of “the development in historical context of his thought” (p. 12).

In Reading 1, an excerpt from his *Theology of the Body* catechism, the Pope discusses views of Aquinas (influenced by Aristotle) on men and women, and suggests that they do not portray an accurate biblical perspective. Instead, he uses an exegesis of

Genesis 1-2 to promote a different way of thinking about men and women. Some readings are papal encyclicals intended for bishops and other high-ranking church officers. Other readings address a general audience.

Pope John Paul II speaks about many aspects of womanhood, including virginity, marriage, and motherhood. When he writes about motherhood, it is in both the biological sense and in the metaphorical sense (“spiritual motherhood,” p. 59). As it is a Catholic work, there is an extensive section about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Also as a result of the specifically Catholic perspective, the Pope writes against ordination of women, citing Jesus’ calling of the Apostles (all men). However, the Pope affirms the role of women’s non-ministerial roles within the early church. Pope John Paul celebrates the dignity and humanity of women and stresses the need for women’s equality in most areas (with few exceptions). The overall tone is a deep respect for women and concern for women’s welfare.

Pope John Paul II Speaks on Women will be a valuable addition for academic institutions that study church history. Scholars interested in the Church’s position on women’s roles will appreciate this anthology of Pope John Paul’s thoughts. It includes notes, a brief index, and a bibliography.

Postcards from the Middle East,

by Chris Naylor. Oxford: Lion Books, 2015. 239 pp. \$16.95.

ISBN 9780745956497

Reviewed by Carrie Beth Lowe, Library Director, Johnson University, Knoxville, TN

Before becoming the executive director of A Rocha International, author Chris Naylor and his family spent twenty years in cross-cultural Christian service in the Middle East. Naylor’s memoir describes the year he and his wife spent teaching in Kuwait as newlyweds, their return to the Middle East with a young family for language study in Jordan, and their many years in Lebanon, where Chris became the leader of an A Rocha project to preserve the Aammiq wetlands in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley. According to its website, A Rocha is an international Christian nature conservation organization involved in scientific research, community-based conservation, and education. The memoir touches on Arab culture, Arabic language, geography, environmental issues, and world events such as Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990, border conflict between Lebanon and Israel, September 11th, the 2005 assassination of a former Lebanese prime minister, and the Lebanon War of 2006.