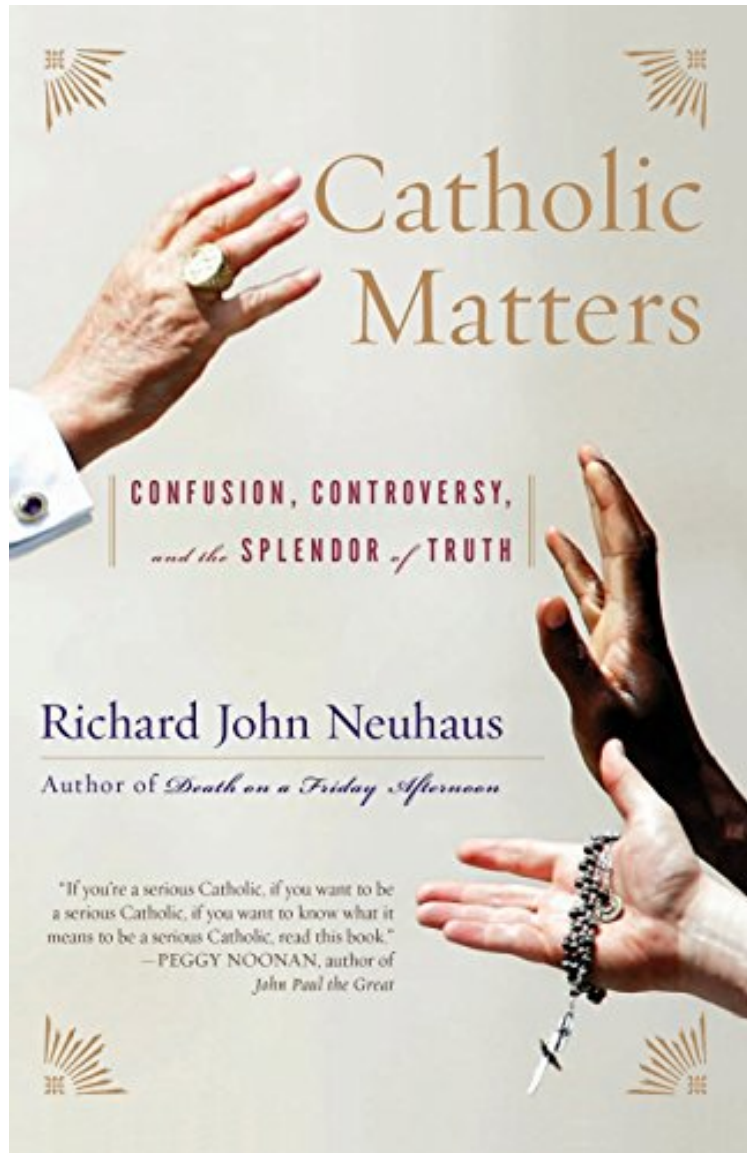


Catholic Matters: Confusion, Controversy, and the Splendor of Truth

Richard John Neuhaus

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#1363824 in Books Richard John Neuhaus 2007-03-01 2007-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .61 x 5.40l, .49 #File Name: 0465049362272 pages Catholic Matters Confusion Controversy and the Splendor of Truth | File size: 19.Mb

Richard John Neuhaus : Catholic Matters: Confusion, Controversy, and the Splendor of Truth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Catholic Matters: Confusion, Controversy, and the Splendor of Truth:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must-ReadBy David SullivanFr. Neuhaus' book is a well crafted essay providing deeply-thought perspectives on the issues confronting the Church today. Although written in 2005, the issues are still current. Fr. Neuhaus, a convert from Lutheranism, also tells a compelling story about his own move to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. As a convert myself, I found much that was similar in my own conversion, which is not really a "conversion" as much as it is entering into a fuller Christian life than I had known as an Evangelical. Throughout the book, Fr. Neuhaus displays his penetrating insight into what the Christian life is and how the Catholic Church, though assailed from within and without, remains the pillar and bulwark of truth and offers the best means to enter fully into life with Christ.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A traditional treasureBy Great SilenceNiehaus certainly is that, a traditional treasure.This book is a wonderful collection of essays, with Neuhaus 's convert's love of Mother Church shining from every page.He has that wonderful ability, rarely found outside the pages of Newman, Ratzinger and a few others, to argue convincingly for a difficult or controversial position. Now and then he lapses into sarcasm when dealing with liberal views, but at least he tries hard to hide this.His erudition, generosity and wisdom is a pleasure to experience, and I will certainly buy and read more of his books.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Catholic Church in the Age of IncoherenceBy Thomas M. LoarieBeing an avid reader of "First Things" for a number of years, Richard John Neuhaus' death (January 7, 2009) was the catalyst for me to read "Catholic Matters." Neuhaus was an astute observer of the philosophical and theological "first things" in the public square, in Christian faith communities, and in his beloved Catholic Church. He caused people to think deeply about faith in today's complex world. "Catholic Matters" provides the serious Catholic with the "Splendor of Truth." Neuhaus shares his own journey to full truth, from being a prominent Lutheran minister to a priest in full communion (contrast to conversion) with the Catholic Church. Neuhaus notes that Protestant churches are hemorrhaging and are now "sideline churches." On the other hand, the Catholic Church is not on the sidelines. It is the Church of Jesus Christ with the Spirit guiding it from beginning to end, and the end is not yet.Neuhaus' call to action centers on the need for a robust, obedient Catholic Church. The alternative to obedience is a cacophony of Christians making it up as they go along as we experience today with a storm of different and conflicting ideas claiming to be the truth. "Confronted by such claims, we necessarily say `sez who?" And the response we get is that many people today acknowledge no authority but him/herself based on the authority of a tradition of Enlightenment rationality. This has now collapsed into incoherence.A Church based in Christ and Truth offers the solution for our times. "The Church of Jesus Christ `subsists' in the Catholic Church....(and) if Christ intended a definite form for his Church and if one wants to be obedient to Christ's intention, then one should belong to the form of the church that most fully embodies that intention - The Catholic Church.""Catholic Matters" includes sections on the Church's teachings on human sexuality, love, fidelity, marriage, the discipline of celibacy, and the adventure of living fully the culture of life; today's morality; unfaithful and ineffective preaching; Catholic dissidents who are suffering from "from delusions of self-importance;" Thomas Aquinas and distinctions between eternal law, natural law, positive law, and Divine law; and what has made the Church distinctive.Neuhaus concludes that the "silly season is almost over and the initiative today is with the center. There are growing and vibrant networks of young professionals excited about being Catholic. The discontinuant left is dying because there is no successor generation."But adds Cardinal Ratzinger's (prior to becoming Pope) caution, "We must brace ourselves for a time of deepened indifference and heightened hostility. Paul writes to Timothy that he has to proclaim the word "in and out of season," when it is popular and when it is despised. The task of the Church is not to be successful but to be faithful." In the final analysis, "Catholic Matters."

In Catholic Matters, Father Neuhaus addresses the many controversies that have marked recent decades of American Catholicism. Looking beyond these troubles to the splendor of truth that constitutes the Church, he proposes a forward-thinking way of being Catholic in America. Drawing on his personal encounters with the late John Paul II and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, Neuhaus describes their hope for a springtime of world evangelization, Christian unity, and Catholic renewal. Catholic Matters reveals a vibrant Church, strengthened and unified by hardship and on the cusp of a great revival in spiritual vitality and an even greater contribution to our common life.

From Publishers WeeklyReaders acquainted with Neuhaus's previous books and his work with the magazine First Things will be most interested in this latest tome on the state of the Catholic Church. A former Lutheran pastor who became Catholic in 1990 and a priest in 1991, Neuhaus has emerged as a leading voice among those considered to be faithful to the Church's Magisterium, or teaching authority. Here, Neuhaus challenges the oft-heard statement, "Yes, I am a Catholic, but I think for myself," explaining how fidelity to the church begins with thinking for oneself so one can think with the church. He expands on this by exploring the role of conscience, drawing a distinction between doing what one wants and discerning and acting upon the truth. Neuhaus also discusses the church's authority, emphasizing that it is never invoked to require people to believe what is false. Other topics include the eerily prophetic *Humanae Vitae*, the 1968 papal encyclical on artificial contraception; the loss of Catholic identity when Friday

abstinence from meat faded from practice; and how news reporting on the Second Vatican Council shaped its meaning for many American Catholics. Neuhaus devotees and others interested in the issues he raises will find here a thoughtful exposition of Catholicism's present moment. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Between excerpts from the "Rome Diary" he kept between John Paul II's death and Benedict XVI's election, the editor of the religiously informed cultural journal First Things delivers a sort of state-of-the-church report, informed by personal experience and the long Catholic tradition. Three pages in, diary gives way to how Catholics and others see the church, namely, as the Church, without peer. Neuhaus then explains how and why he, formerly a Lutheran minister, became a Catholic priest, and thereafter discusses the church's authority, conflicts within the church following Vatican II, the differences in American Catholic life before and after the sixties, the misunderstanding of those who would politicize and "democratize" the church, and his conviction that the center--the dogma and teaching--of the church perdures. The church proposes, he says, "that fidelity and continuity, not autonomy and novelty, are the paths toward a more promising future." There is a lot of meat in this relatively brief book, but Neuhaus' careful service of it makes it as palatable as it is rich. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "(A) shrewd and humorous survey of the sedate Protestant world (Neuhaus) has left behind him and the colourful Catholic world he has embraced... A short book, both salutary and stimulating." Catholic Herald"