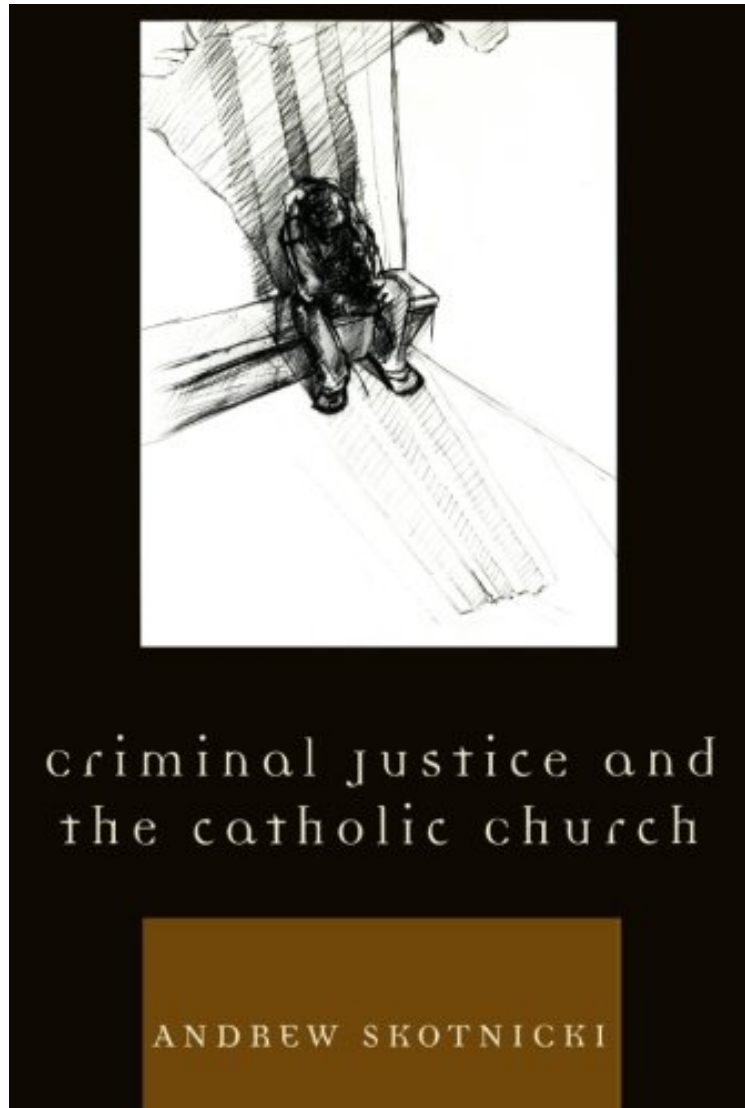


Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church

Andrew Skotnicki

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Andrew Skotnicki : Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent ReadingBy Tom O'ConnorVery timely and much needed when so often religious and political voices speaking to this topic today seem to miss the mark. We need more research and literature like this. Skotnicki's work surprises, it evokes a sense of hope for the humane possibilities of prisons while also confronting some of the brutal facts about their shortcomings. The book makes a great contribution by exploring the conditions of possibility for such a development of humanity in a prison context and by firmly

grounding these conditions in the history of Catholic philosophy, theology, social teaching and communal responsibility. As a religious person working in the field of corrections and criminal justice I found myself challenged, informed and uplifted by this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent prison chaplain library resource By Ricochet55 Excellent prison chaplain's library resource! 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellent By Scott Balasak Writing in a style that is both academically stimulating and esthetically pleasing Andrew Skotnicki has done an excellent job of weaving the reader through the exploration of the historical, theological, and philosophical links between crime, punishment and the Catholic church . I have nothing but high praise for what Skotnicki has accomplished with this treatise.

The Catholic Church has had a dramatic impact on both the structure and understanding of criminal justice up to the present. This book surveys the history of the church to suggest that despite demonstrable abuses, a humane and redemptive theory of criminal justice can be constructed that is harmonious with biblical sources, tradition, and current normative emphases in Catholic social thought.

Andrew Skotnicki provides a richly rewarding examination of our penal system that is historically and ethically informed. His overall argument is cogent and important. If you want to understand how Catholic thought and practice both have and should influence penal reform, this book is an excellent place to start. (Kenneth Himes, Boston College, past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America) By looking at the "Catholic" roots of the penal institution, Andrew Skotnicki invites us to consider how we can work toward the full social restoration of today's prisoner. There is a great deal of needed humanity, wisdom, and hope in these pages, especially at a time when those in prison live lives completely estranged from our own. (James F. Keenan, SJ) Drawing richly upon historical testimony, *Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church* is a splendid, lucidly written assessment of the theological and ethical implications of incarceration. Skotnicki's ground-breaking retrieval of the image of Christ as prisoner offers a powerful, and all too timely corrective to prevailing retributive practices. (William R. O'Neill, Jesuit School of Theology) Andrew Skotnicki... has done a great service by producing in this book a carefully articulated and historically grounded Catholic theory of criminal justice.... A careful, concise, and accessible survey.... Skotnicki writes clearly. The book is full of historical and theological insight, and most importantly it gives a much-needed rationale for injecting American criminal justice practices with a strong dose of humanity.... A well argued, and engagingly written book. Other fruitful questions, too, will arise for each of its (hopefully many) readers. (Ted Grimsrud *Modern Theology*, April 2009) Rich in its history and stark in its implications, *Criminal Justice and the Catholic Church* illustrates the tragic distance between intent and effect in our contemporary practice and culture of incarceration. (Mary Ellen Dougherty, SSND, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) About the Author Andrew Skotnicki is associate professor of Christian ethics at Manhattan College. He is the author of *Religion and the Development of the American Penal System* as well as numerous scholarly articles on the theological and moral foundations of criminal justice.