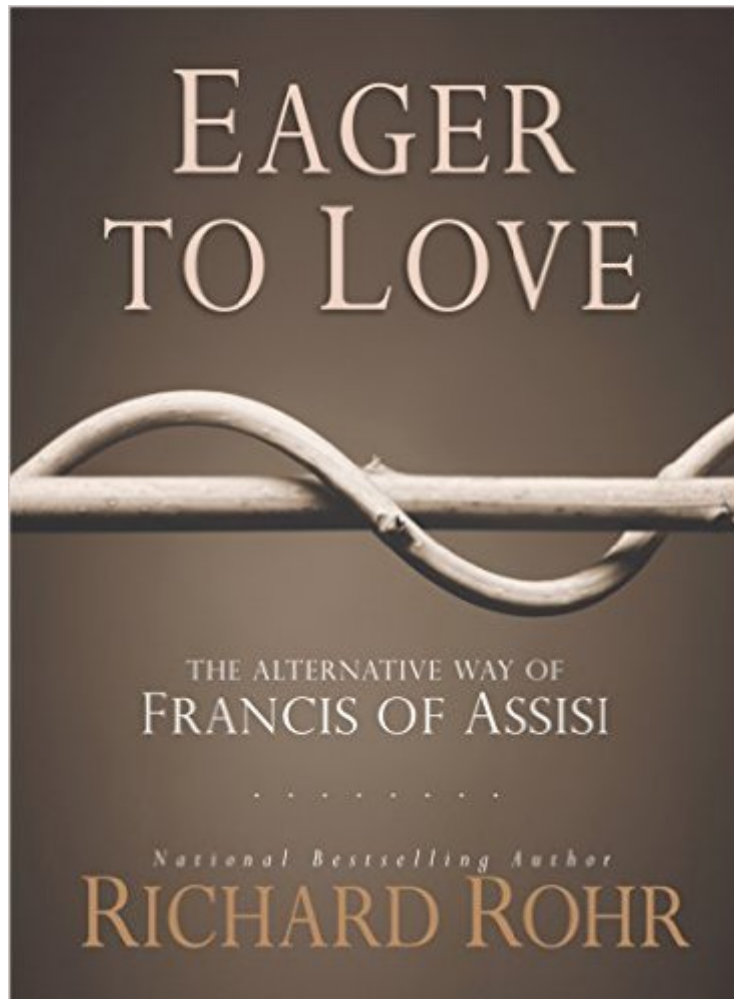


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Eager To Love: The Alternative Way Of Francis Of Assisi



Synopsis

Francis of Assisi is one of the most beloved of all saints. Both traditional and entirely revolutionary, he was a paradox. He was at once down to earth and reaching toward heaven, grounded in the rich history of the Church while moving toward a new understanding of the world beyond. Globally recognized as an ecumenical teacher, Richard Rohr started out "and remains" a Franciscan friar. The loving, inclusive life and preaching of Francis of Assisi make him a recognizable and beloved saint across many faith traditions. He was, as Rohr notes, "a master of making room for it" and letting go of that which was tired or empty. Francis found an alternative way to follow Jesus, one that disregarded power and privilege and held fast to the narrow path of the Gospel. Rohr helps us look beyond the birdbath image of the saint to remind us of the long tradition founded on his revolutionary, radical, and life-changing embrace of the teachings of Jesus. Rohr draws on Scripture, insights from psychology, and literary and artistic references, to weave together an understanding of the tradition as first practiced by St. Francis. Rohr shows how his own innovative theology is firmly grounded in the life and teaching of this great saint and provides a perspective on how his alternative path to the divine can deepen and enrich our spiritual lives.

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Customer Reviews

This was a very enlightening book. I found myself unable to put it down. Richard done a great in answering some of the basic questions about many areas of religion and spirituality that I had. For those who are seeking a deeper understanding of spirituality, this book is for you. Sure it is great to

go to church and get the messages taught by those who foster community in living a spiritual life, however there is not a lot of teaching on that very intimate walk with the Holy Spirit. Richard lays out a method to achieve that deeper self knowing that the spirit is alive and well. I felt more like getting to know Christ, and the Holy Spirit in a closer, deeper, personal way. Richard Rohr does a great job of motivating one to take that deeper walk. He also uses scripture to help one understand that this closer walk is very scriptural. I really enjoyed his expose on Franciscan Spirituality. For those who are seeking this would be a great book. HS

I have read several books by Richard Rohr now. I enjoy his effort to continue to love many things from the past about his religious faith while trying to find new and fresh ways of expressing faith in a changing world. He walks a tight rope of remaining open to the people who want nothing to change about their faith and those to want a new insight to ponder. I think he does both with skill. This book about the faith of the founders of his religious order borrows from the old but expresses it again new.

Wow. My clergy book club chose this as our monthly reading and it is blowing me away page after page. I'd highlight more, but then all the pages would be also solid highlighting. There is a lot to think about in this robust overview of Franciscan spirituality.

I have long enjoyed reading Fr. Richard Rohr, particularly starting with "The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See" and on through "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life " and "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self." This one is his best yet. Fr. Rohr' thinking is maturing and deepening and, as throughout all of his works, he presents his ideas in a clear way. I am a Third Order Lutheran Franciscan and as such am very interested in Franciscan spirituality; as I have been reading this I have been posting quotes from the book.

Vintage Rohr! His latest book is a strong demonstration of how and why one can live and pray inside and on the edge of the institutional church and be in full communion with her, just as Francis did. Rohr is one of those prophetic voices that joins the chorus of so many deeply contemplative Catholic Christians from the desert fathers to this 21st century calling us all to greater authenticity. It is a call to a richer and fuller communion with God and a more mature understanding of life and love, one that is fluid and not polarizing, always rooted in scripture and the most ancient of our church traditions.

Richard Rohr always manages to challenge and enlighten with his insight. His latest work, *Eager to Love* provides a thorough understanding of Franciscan spirituality which I'd more visceral and less cerebral than that espoused by Benedictine spirituality. The Franciscan model may be more relevant today given the apparent gap that exists between and among personnel cultures, ethnic groups, as well as the misuse of the earth and its primal inhabitants.

Fr. Richard skillfully highlights how love is at the heart of the alternative way of St. Francis of Assisi. This book really made me desire to start down the road of the discernment process for the Secular Franciscans and save money for the Living School run by Fr. Richard. If you desire the primacy of Love in your life and in the world, this book is a must read.

Richard Rohr has done it again! The prolific padre has produced an absolute gem in his exposition of 'The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi.' The first chapter alone -- on mysticism -- is worth the price of the book, and there are a dozen more after that. plus a preface, three appendices, an afterword, and copious notes. This is a book to be chewed and digested thoroughly.

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