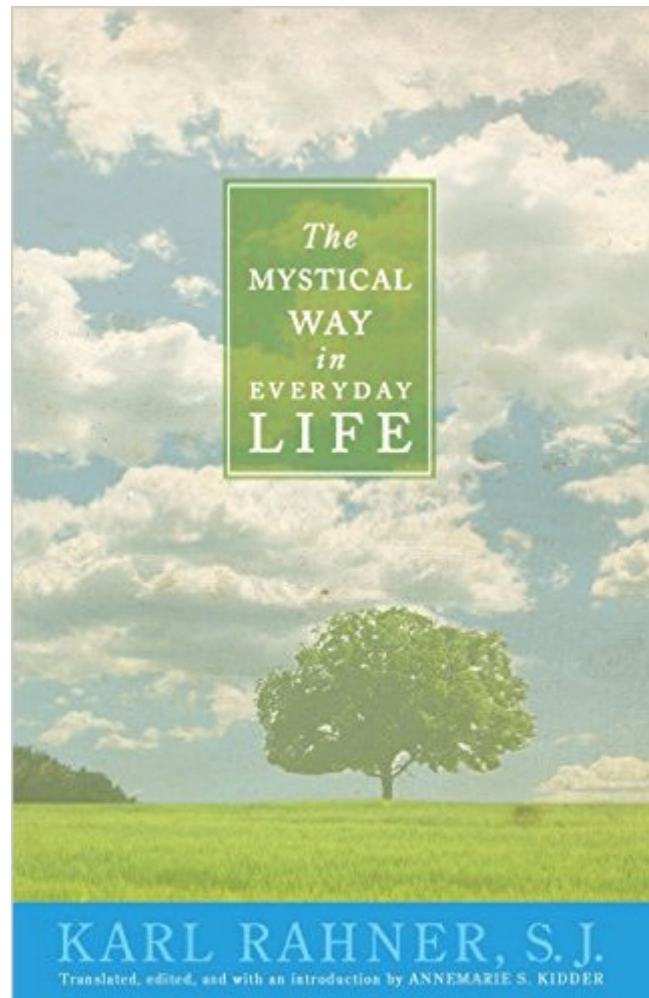


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The Mystical Way In Everyday Life



Synopsis

Karl Rahner, a Jesuit Priest who died in 1984, is widely regarded as one of the most influential Catholic theologians of the 20th century. His writings played an enormous role in shaping the documents of Vatican II. But while he is best known for his academic theology, his deepest goal was to help ordinary Christians to recognize and respond to the presence of grace in their everyday lives. Rahner famously observed that the Christians of the future will be mystics or there will be no Christianity. With readings for Advent, Lent, and the other liturgical seasons, these sermons, prayers, and reflections offer spiritual nourishment for the whole year.

Book Information

Paperback: 199 pages

Publisher: Orbis Books (March 31, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570758670

ISBN-13: 978-1570758676

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In recent years the writings of Father Karl Rahner, SJ, renowned Jesuit theologian of the 20th century have continued to be explored. With this book Annemarie Kidder has made available some which are not well known in English but which reinforce his reputation as a profound and even poetic writer focusing on the spiritual life. They also respond to what has come to be more in demand now, exploration of the experience of God in everyday life, that is, mystical experience. Rahner, known for his deep and sometimes not-easy-to-follow probings in systematic theology, had always viewed himself as a pastoral theologian, one who saw theology as a servant to spirituality and indeed, from those who knew or encountered him, ultimately to give expression to his own deeply held beliefs. Having known Rahner as a professor and as a preacher I never felt there was a dichotomy between his theological thought and the practice of the spiritual life. It was

evident then and was reinforced later by reading again and again what have become recognized, as Kidder points out, his two seminal works on prayer, "Encounters with Silence" and "The Need and the Blessing of Prayer." Kidder has done us an immense service in making the sermons, essays and talks available in English, most of which Lehman first assembled for publication when he was an assistant to Rahner. Her extensive introduction clearly explains their context in his life, even for a contemporary reader not especially familiar with current or classic spirituality and mysticism. As Lehmann states in his foreword, "these texts are still--or, better yet, are especially today--of the greatest importance, fresh, and hence so very relevant."

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