

Elca Church Council Devotions

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imagine a heart which has been ripped from a man's body wrapped with thorns pierced with a knife and then placed on the man's chest or a group of people who believe that wearing a small rectangle of wool next to their skin ensures that they will go to heaven as long as it is brown wool and worn continuously although psychoanalysts have long investigated similar ideas and beliefs they have ignored popular catholicism even though behaviour such as this occurs over and over again in the history of catholic cults and devotions

catholicism has had a profound and lasting influence on the shape the meaning and the course of american history now in the first book to reflect the new communal and social awakening which emerged from vatican council ii here is a vibrant and compelling history of the american catholic experience one that will surely become the standard volume for this decade and decades to come spanning nearly five hundred years the narrative eloquently describes the catholic experience from the arrival of columbus and the other european explorers to the present day it sheds fascinating new light on the work of the first vanguard of missionaries and on the religious struggles and tensions of the early settlers we watch catholicism as it spread across the new world and see how it transformed and was transformed by the land and its people we follow the evolution of the urban ethnic communities and learn about the vital contributions of the immigrant church to catholicism and finally we share in the controversy of the modern church and the extraordinary changes in the catholic consciousness as it comes to grips with

such contemporary social and theological issues as war and peace and the arms race materialism birth control and abortion social justice civil rights religious freedom the ordination of women and married clergy the american catholic experience is not just the history of an institution but a chronicle of the dreams and aspirations the crises and faith of a thriving ever evolving religious community it provides a penetrating and deeply thoughtful look at an experience as diverse as exciting and as powerful as america itself

for generations american catholics lived out their faith through countless unremarkable routines deep questions of theology usually meant little to them but parishioners clung to deeply ingrained habits of devotion both public and private particular devotions changed over time waxing or waning in popularity but the habits endured going to mass on sunday saying prayers privately and teaching their children to do the same filling their homes with crucifixes and other religious images participating in special services blending the church s calendar of feast and fast days with the secular cycles of work and citizenship negotiating their conformity or not to the church s demands regarding sexual behavior and even diet it was religious practice carried out in daily and weekly observance that embodied their faith more than any abstract set of dogmas from the introduction in habits of devotion four senior scholars take the measure of the central religious practices and devotions that by the middle of the twentieth century defined the ordinary week to week religion of the majority of american catholics their essays investigate prayer devotion to mary confession and the eucharist as practiced by catholics in the united states before and shortly after the second vatican council

with reference to christianity and other religions

women in christianity in the modern age examines the role of women in christianity in the 20th and early 21st centuries this edited volume includes eight important contributions from academics in the field the modern era has been an age of social and religious upheaval and the ravages of global warfare and changes to women s role in society have made the examination of the place of women in religion a key question in theology from theological concerns engagements with the biblical texts by feminist and anti feminist theologians the modern role of mary and women saints to political and social debates on women s ministry and place in society and cultural shifts as expressed through theologically inspired artwork by women women in christianity in the modern age provides an overview and in depth studies of a tumultuous and changing era this insightful text will be of key interest to students and scholars in religion and cultural studies

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