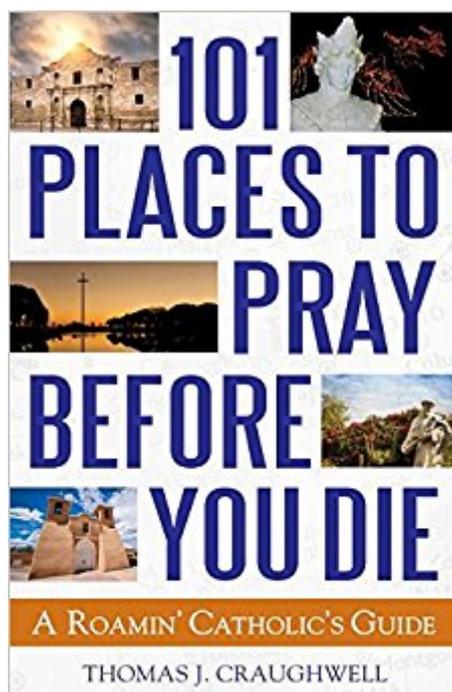


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101 Places To Pray Before You Die: A Roamin' Catholic's Guide



Synopsis

Five million visitors crowd into St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York each year. Hundreds of thousands annually pay homage to the Blessed Virgin at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. But Catholic travelers don't always realize that every state in the Union contains unique shrines, retreat houses, missions and other significant holy places. In *101 Places to Pray Before You Die*, you'll discover the unexpected, the somber, the whimsical and the inspiring spots that, at times, are hidden in plain sight. Every American has heard of the Battle of the Alamo, the heroic-but-hopeless defense put up by a few dozen Texans against an army from Mexico that numbered in the thousands. But most visitors overlook the fact that the Alamo was actually founded by a Franciscan priest as a mission, to bring the local Native American tribe into the Catholic faith. A drive through Cullman, Alabama, will lead you to four acres of quirky miniature reproductions depicting some of the world's most famous religious structures. Nuns who nursed the wounded on both sides of the Civil War are honored at Washington, D.C.'s Nuns of the Battlefield monument. Dorothy Day, the social activist and champion of the poor, left her mark across New York City—and you can follow in her footsteps. The book also bears witness to the legacy of European, Latin, African and Asian immigrants and Native Americans, tracing their distinctive influence on the history and practice of Catholicism in America. Conveniently organized by state, *101 Places to Pray Before You Die* will enhance your travel experiences—whether it's a day trip to explore a spot you've breezed past a hundred times, a quick detour on a business trip or a family vacation dedicated to more intensive spiritual searching. Each entry contains details about the location's significance to American Catholics, along with the address, contact information and hours of operation (if applicable).

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Customer Reviews

Thomas J. Craughwell has been self-employed as a writer for 24 years. He is the author of more than 40 books on history, religion, and popular culture, including *Saints Behaving Badly* (Doubleday), *This Saint Will Save Your Life* (Quirk Books), *St. Peter's Bones* (Doubleday), and *Stealing Lincoln's Body* (Harvard University Press), which the History Channel produced as a two-hour documentary. Tom served as the ghostwriter for *Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer*, the companion volume to Norris Chumley's PBS documentary of the same name. Tom has written articles for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Spectator*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Emmy* magazine, *Inside the Vatican*, *National Catholic Register*, *The Catholic Herald* (UK), *Reality Magazine* (Ireland), and *Our Sunday Visitor*. He has appeared as a guest on CNN, the BBC, FOX, EWTN, and the Discovery Channel. Tom writes from his home in Bethel, Connecticut.

Disappointed there are no pictures in this book and I can't believe you would leave out "The Grotto of The Redemption" in Westbend Iowa which is described as the 8th wonder of the world and believed to be the largest grotto in the world! Also in Iowa is the beautiful Trinity Heights /Queen of Peace in Sioux City Iowa which is an amazing place to walk and pray and most amazing to see.

The Best Book Ever!

Very good

Just wish it had color plates.

This is a valuable contribution to guidebooks and those books which feature unusual locations. Some of these are beautiful shrines, some are a bit off beat or quirky, all seem as if they would be great places to pray. I have visited some of the places featured, and have to say the descriptions are well done and complete.

Thomas J. Craughwell's unusual guidebook to our nation's vast treasury of Catholic churches, shrines, retreat houses and universities helps travelers add a Catholic element to their vacations, business trips or Sunday drives. If you plan to visit a city for any reason, take a look in *101 Places to Pray Before You Die: A Roamin' Catholic's Guide* to see if you'll be near any of the featured locations. Visits to some of these sites may not require very much time; others (like the retreat houses) beg for longer stays. The author takes a "big tent" approach with this book, making sure to include at least one site from each state plus Washington, D.C., and selecting places with connections to a variety of ethnic heritages.

It is a great concept, but it's missing quite a bit. It could easily be 200 or more, but perhaps that isn't as catchy of a title. It's a good stepping stone; a good book to borrow, but it's not packed with great information.

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