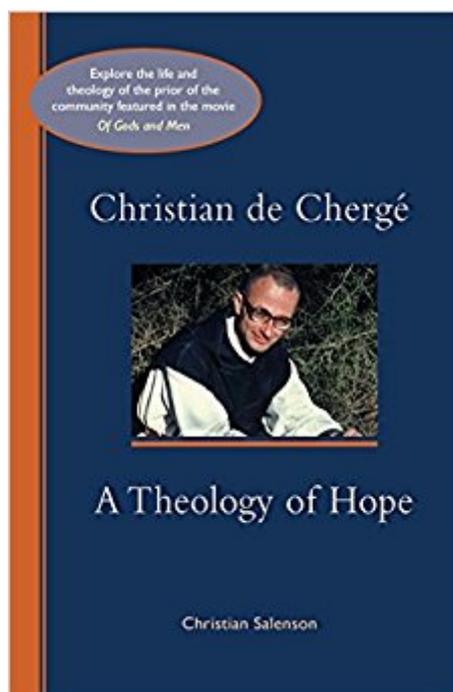


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Christian De Cherge: A Theology Of Hope (Cistercian Studies)



Synopsis

Christian de Chergé, prior of the Cistercian community at Tibhirine, Algeria, was assassinated with six of his fellow monks in 1996. De Chergé saw his monastic vocation as a call to be a person of prayer among persons who pray, that is, among the Muslim friends and neighbors with whom he and his brothers shared daily life. De Chergé's writings bear witness to an original thinker who insists on the value of interreligious dialogue for a more intelligent grasp of one's own faith. Christian Salenson shows us the personal, ecclesial, and theological foundations of de Chergé's vocation and the originality of his life and thought. He shows how the experience of a small monastery lost in the Atlas Mountains of Algeria contributes importantly to today's theological debates.

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Customer Reviews

I highly recommend anyone interested in ecumenism or Christian and Islamic studies to read this book. Salenson weaves together not only a very good biographical story about Christian and his fellow monks but at the same time discusses how the Christian practices of prayer, lectio divina, eucharistic, sacraments, fasting, feasting, and almsgiving can be deepened by an openness to what Abbot de Chergé called 'radical hospitality' or 'friendship.' Today, as parts of the Church become more closed minded, more sectarian, more inward-looking, we need more words of wisdom from people such as Abbot de Chergé, who provide us with hope in this world which seems to

lack hope. Fr. William C. Mills, Author of Encountering Jesus in the Gospels

Christian Salenson is a priest of the diocese of Nîmes, France. Former rector of the seminary of Avignon, he is today director of the Institut de science et de théologie des religions at Marseille. He has published *Prier 15 jours avec Christian de Cherge* (Paris: Éditions Nouvelle Cité, 2006). Nada Conic was trained as a classicist at the University of Toronto and has taught Ancient Greek language and literature there and at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

Cistercian Studies has enabled all of us to obtain a wonderful insight into the life and faith of a very competent theologian and a martyr. The efforts of Christian and his community to understand the people among whom they had chosen to live should draw others to make a similar effort. The love which he and his brothers showed for these people was crowned by their martyrdom, a price few will pay but a call to all of us to exemplify understanding and love in a volatile atmosphere. This is a lesson appropriate for all of us who enjoy the gift of our humanity.

I thoroughly appreciated the understanding of God's openness to each and all of us, God's own people. Each of us has our own way of being open to God's voice and to our own positive regard of God in each of us. de Cherge showed for me a great openness and understanding of God's variety of ways of being known to each of us -- and calling us to praise ! We need to be open to and appreciate each one's journey. God does call each of us in love but we have different ways of listening and praising.

Well written and very readable, This is a book that deserves a wide distribution. It not only needs to be read, but needs to be meditated on.

This is one of the most challenging and rewarding books I have read in years on the subject of interreligious studies and dialogue. Christian deCherge's life and commitment to monasticism and to others different from him is most remarkable.

Very thoughtful and thought provoking; even profound. Certainly outside the usual writings on these points. Well worth the time to ponder the text.

The book is fine and above any of my desires. It is the condition of the book that bothered me. There were two large cuts through the binding of the book. It is interesting that there was no cut on the envelope. I didn't send it back as postage is too much and time is too long. Thank you. Sr. Beverly Pillar

I believe that this is one of the greatest books because it helps one to realize that everyone comes to their faith in different ways and with different means and therefore everyone should be respected and realize that they are a great gift with their experiences. Experiences teach us a lot if we only reflect on them and see how they affect us and bring us closer to the Lord, the Lord of all peoples.

Excellent

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