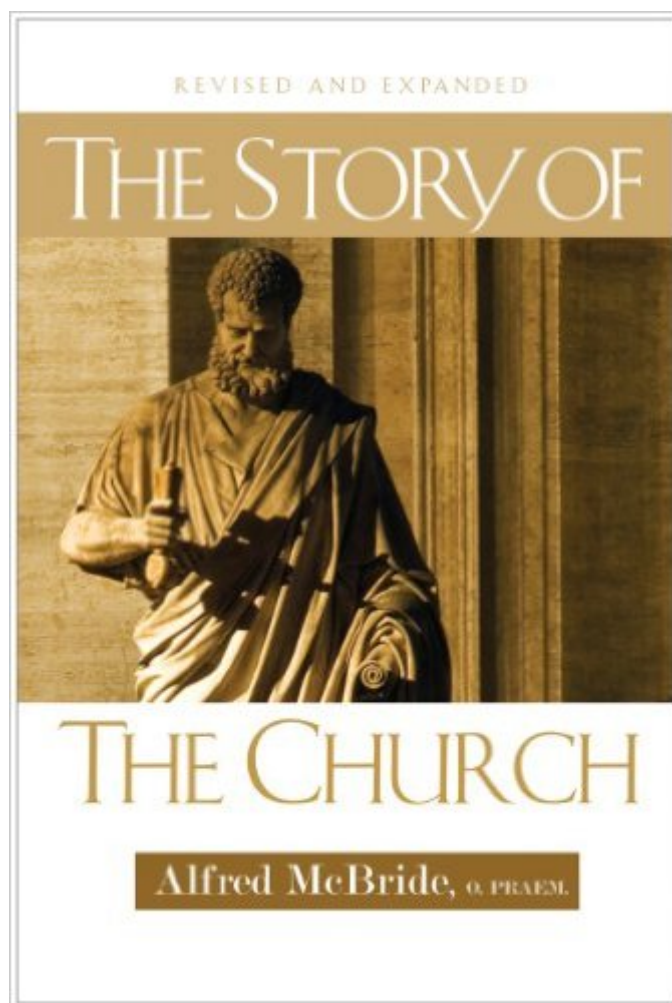


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The Story Of The Church: Revised And Expanded



Synopsis

For two thousand years, the Catholic Church has housed an unruly family of saints, sinners and ordinary folks. Its history is a record of a boisterous lot of people—inspiring, infuriating, sometimes frustratingly dull and often engagingly charming. —from the Introduction

With rich storytelling and a reader-friendly style, Father Al McBride spans twenty-one centuries of church history, highlighting peak moments from a human perspective that responds to a question increasingly on the Catholic mind: How did we get here from there—and where are we heading next? Far from dry facts and figures, Father McBride delves into the human drama of church history, from the stories of the early martyrs to the continuing unfolding of the changes of Vatican II and the church in the new millennium. Updated and reformatted with new chapters, sidebars, bibliography and index, *The Story of the Church* is ideal for classroom use, small groups or individual study.

The study of Church history offers natural evidence for the Church's durability and continuity and supports our supernatural belief that Jesus abides with us all days. It is our faith that he will not let the gates of hell prevail against us, that he has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in our midst. —from the Introduction

Book Information

Paperback: 310 pages

Publisher: St. Anthony Messenger Press; Revised edition (January 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0867168765

ISBN-13: 978-0867168761

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #251,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #510 in Books > History > World > Religious > General #754 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > History #1374 in Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity

Customer Reviews

Although the information in McBride's book is good, the narrative sections are, generally, painful to read. In a book in which exposition is really important, narrative is a truly a poor choice, and using dialogue to convey large chunks of information is particularly hard to digest, particularly when the speakers all sound like people we might meet in our own day and age. For example, two 5th century

Eastern Orthodox members, Frank and Laura (names I don't expect we'd find in 5th Century Constantinople), engage in a conversation about the fall of Rome. At one point, Frank remarks, "Well, you know, when Constantine came here to the East a century ago, he pretty much left a power vacuum in the West. The ruling families who were left soon died out. And the new wave of barbarians, who had no respect for the world they were invading, didn't help matters." Laura responds, "Is there any help for the West, Frank?" After two pages of this kind of stilted, overlaid dialogue, the two part with Frank being invited over to dinner with a group of friends "hungry for news about the West. The dialogue concludes this way: "I'd love to. "Say about eight?" "Wonderful, see you then." In an imaginary interview, with the 16th century theologian, Erasmus, is asked why he has gradually withdrawn his support from Martin Luther. He sums up his objections with this 16th century linguistic wonder: "He called the pope the Antichrist, the bishops seducers and Rome an abomination before God. That was a bit much." Clearly, while McBride has solid knowledge of church history, he has a tin ear when it comes to dialogue.

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