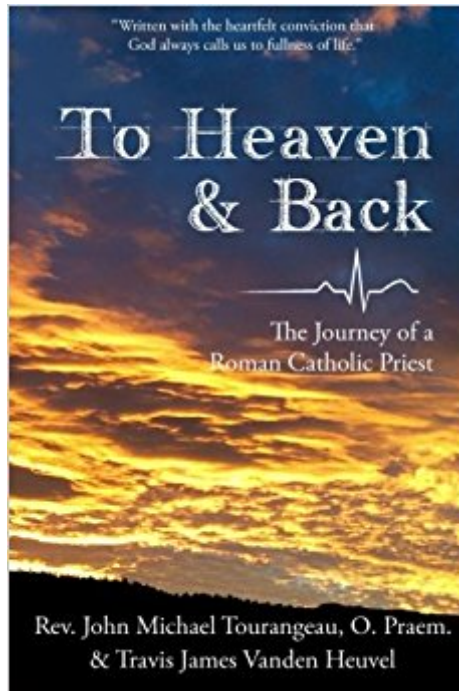




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To Heaven & Back: The Journey Of A Roman Catholic Priest



Synopsis

While connecting me up to various machines and monitors and placing nitroglycerine tablets under my tongue, the doctor looked at me early on and said: "You waited too long to get here, sir." I was petrified. There was no immediate response on my part, only a deep sense of fear entombed by a completely paralyzed inner spirit. Much to my surprise, he spoke again: "Sir, you've waited too long to get here. You're not going to make it." And he continued: "If you believe in God, this is the time to make peace." In that very moment, I said to myself, "What do you mean, 'If you believe in God?' Of course I believe in God! I'm a man of faith and a Catholic priest!" Fr. John Tourangeau, O. Praem., a Norbertine priest who had an afterlife experience following a major heart attack, emphatically states, "Heaven is for real!" Within this enlightening and hope-filled book, Fr. John weaves a powerful and dynamic tapestry of the Kingdom of God at hand through the exploration of Christian tradition, Sacred Scripture, Catholic teaching, as well as his own lived experiences. "While the fullness of heaven cannot be fully experienced in our life here on earth," Father explains, "we are able to more fully experience God's love for us through our relationships with others. For it is in and through these relationships that we draw closer to Christ and his promise for us."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I recommend this book to reader as it presents the opportunity not only to hear the transformational journey of Father Tourangeau's experience which continues to impact his ministry today, but to be able to draw connections and reflect on our own journey of life and mission which inevitably considers the reality of death. Father presents this reality in a way which provides insight

about the true purpose and meaning of our earthly life, recognizing our human dependence upon God's unfailing love for us now and at the hour of our death. In reflecting upon Father's own testimony, may we too continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ together on life's journey as disciples of hope." — The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL Bishop of Green Bay "I thought I knew Fr John Tourangeau. I liked and respected him as a fellow priest and a friend. But I was blown away by the depth and transparency in the telling of his story. Fr John begins with an encounter with the living Christ in the context of a near-death experience and in the light of that meeting he tells his story simply, effectively and powerfully. Fr John returns to life seeking to discern his purpose and, while the story is full of faith, hope and love, it is not simplistic. He has to negotiate the challenges of ministry and of family and facing his own demons. In doing so John grows in confidence and faith." - Rev. John L. Bostwick

Rev. John Michael Tourangeau, O. Praem. has been an ordained priest for nearly 30 years and is a member of the Norbertine Community residing at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, WI. Since 2012, John has been traveling around the country sharing his life story in a presentation entitled "Heaven: Is it for real?" From 2012-2015, over 10,000 people have attended more than 35 presentations; the success with which these presentations were received has resulted in the publishing of *To Heaven & Back: The Journey of a Roman Catholic Priest* by John Tourangeau and Travis Vanden Heuvel. A thumbnail sketch of John's life as a Norbertine and priest includes service as a transitional deacon and newly ordained priest at Providence of God Parish (Chicago, IL), followed by a move to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM. There he served as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community (Albuquerque, NM), followed by pastorates at St. Gertrude Parish (Mora, NM), Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Clovis, NM), San Francisco de Asís Parish (Ranchos de Taos, NM), and St. Anne Parish (Albuquerque, NM). During those years John also served as Vicar Forane (Dean) and later as a member of the Presbyteral Council. Later, John would return to St. Norbert Abbey and serve as Vocation Coordinator and Pastor of St. Norbert College Parish. John did his undergraduate studies at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI. He holds a Master of Divinity Degree with Mission Specialization from Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago (1986), a Master of Social Work Degree (MSW) from New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM (1997) and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the State of Wisconsin. John also holds a Master of Business Administration Degree (MBA) from The University of Phoenix, Albuquerque, NM (2003), and is in the middle of a Ph.D. program in Organization Development.

The title caught my interest, as well as the subject. The book held my interest, as it was not at all as I expected it to be. It was very compelling and took twists and turns that caused me to think about some preconceived ideas about Catholic Priests. The story made me keep reading. I had to find out what happened next, but the ending was a wonderful surprise.

Having had great personal life giving experiences with these authors I couldn't be more excited to finish the rest of this book! These two educated authors both live a faith based life where they positively impact many people in our community! After just reading the prologue I already know that this book is going to deliver an important message on spirituality about how one's personal experience (Rev John Tourangeau) dealt with a life altering (near death) experience and how he used that experience to deepen his faith and understanding of an eternal after life. I recommended this book to anyone who wants an exciting yet simple read that is packed with thought provoking thoughts on spirituality!

I love reading about near death experiences. I was disappointed in this book. It did not include enough personal experience for me. Would like to have heard more about his heart and spirit experience than just the facts.

I loved this book.

Would have liked more detail of his visit to heaven, and was more of biography of his life and family relationships

I think if you were looking for this type of book you will enjoy this. While I appreciate the citations and biblical references I felt it was difficult to relate .. I felt it was more like something you had to experience yourself to get the full import.

I always like books that reaffirm my faith. I gave this book for a priest friend for read, I am sure he will enjoy it as well.

My kind of read

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