primarily on texts in which God plays a significant role. He also wants to wrestle with some aspects of the New Testament’s portrayals that are problematic and challenging—what he calls “Red Flag” passages, such as God being portrayed as a perpetrator of violence. Written in a clear and lively manner, this book brings the non-technical reader into the beauty and mystery of the God revealed in the New Testament.


Pope Francis has a wonderful ability to pray in words deeply embedded in the theology and imagery of Scripture and at the same time reflective of genuine human experience. That is the case with this booklet, which draws on an extended reflection on the cross the Pope recited at the conclusion of the annual Stations of the Cross celebrated at the Coliseum on Good Friday, March 25, 2016. Beautifully presented with the accompanying sketches of artist Deborah Luke, this would be ideal for personal meditation or for use in a parish Lenten service.


Here is a wonderful exposition of key ideas in Paul’s letter to the Romans. Gaventa, professor of New Testament at Baylor University, writes for a broad audience; her goal is to give her readers a fresh appreciation of the dynamic message of this major Pauline epistle. After a discussion of the circumstances, purpose, and audience of the letter she probes some of its fundamental motifs such as the corporate and cosmic meaning of salvation, the essential role and God-given destiny of Israel, the ethical teaching of Paul, and his inclusive vision of the church. Written with verve and depth, this book will open the beauty and force of Paul’s letter to those fortunate enough to read it.


British theologian and popular spiritual writer Paula Gooder is concerned here with a Christian spirituality of the body reflected in the writings of Paul the apostle. She notes at the outset how much attention—not all of it sound—is given to the “body” in modern secular Western cultures, with their emphasis on maintaining “beautiful” and physically healthy bodies. Her question is: What do the Scriptures and Christian tradition tell us about our bodies? While some suppose that Paul the apostle would be a strict ascetic and take a dim view of attention to the body, Gooder demonstrates that this is not the case at all. Paul considers the human body as intrinsically good and sacred as created by God, and, through baptism, capable of being graced with God’s own Spirit, enabling it to find joy in God’s service. Written for a lay audience, this is a beautiful, wise, and biblically sound reflection on what a Christian spirituality of the body entails.