

Mary's Life and Reflections –a Review by Anne Schroeder

Mary Joan Wallace has provided a loving and accessible bridge for Catholics who knew of *The Mystical City of God* and its 794-page abridgement, *City of God*, but who might never have found their way to the reflections and background of Mary without this lovely and inspiring work.

Reading about Mary and her early life, confident in the authenticity of its imprimatur source, *The Mystical City of God*, has allowed me to grow closer to her. I wept as I read her revelations to Ven. Mary of Agreda, and I bless the author for her diligent and inspired efforts. It was inspiring watching the author pray over even minor edits in her passion to remain true to the revelations of Our Blessed Mother.

The result is an invitation to read the longer versions from which this book is abridged. But for those of us who may never find our way to the tomes, this beautifully concise book will allow us to grow closer to Mary and to hear her words of encouragement.

-----Anne Schroeder who has lived in the author's home town of Atascadero, California and who now resides in Oregon is a Christian and inspirational writer of many books, including *Branches on the Conejo*.

+ + +

Mary's Life and Reflections...as seen in The Mystical City of God...
A Review by Rev. Dr. James W. Zottnick

Mary Joan Wallace has written a thoughtful, dedicated, devotional account that deserves wide reading and acceptance. For too long the Protestant world has neglected teaching the full role of Mary, the Mother of God, and this account is both beneficial and needed.

I heartily recommend this book to the general public, as its reading will quicken devotional life and spur spiritual development.

-----Rev. Dr. Zottnick from Florida is a retired United Methodist minister who served churches in Montana and Iowa. For 12 years he was chairman of the Department of Education at Westmar College (formerly a Methodist College) in Iowa. He also served as a professor at South India Biblical Seminary in Bangarapet, India.

+ + +

Mary's Life and Reflections...as seen in The Mystical City of God...
A Review by Fr. John H. Hampsch, cmf, Claretian Teaching Ministry

Aside from our Savior himself, no person in the history of mankind has been more frequently portrayed by artists, sculptors, writers, and poets, than the Mother of that Savior. And no woman in human history can claim to have been at the same time, a mother, a spouse and a virgin, except the woman who is the eminent Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son and Spouse of the Holy Spirit, by whose “overshadowing” divinity was incarnated into our humanity (Luke 1:35).

And now, adding another gleam to this splendid panorama of human exaltation is this treatise on the earthly life of the Virgin of Nazareth—“a summary of a summary”—conveniently abridged for the time-strapped modern reader. Most deserving of thanks for this noble endeavor is Mary Joan Wallace, who compiled this treasury of life-events and Spirit-spawned insights of the Holy Virgin herself. Devoutly reading these pearls of wisdom will draw the reader “closer than close” to the heart of Mary, God’s masterpiece.

-----Ordained a Catholic priest in 1952 and a member of the Claretian Missionaries, Fr. Hampsch is widely known throughout the United States and world for his popular teaching and healing services and for his numerous, scripturally-based books, booklets, and tapes. His materials are available from his Claretian Teaching Ministry in Torrance, California and from Queenship Publishing.

+ + +

Mary's Life and Reflections—As Seen in the Mystical City of God
A Review by Ferrell McNeal

I thoroughly enjoyed this book by Mary Joan Wallace (called Mary Jo). I appreciate her time, research, and careful thought for its preparation and presentation. Mary Jo’s book provides beautiful insights into the lives of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the apostles. Included *Thoughts from Mary* have encouraged me towards (1) drawing closer to God, (2) giving God more praise and thanksgiving, and (3) not allowing myself to be hindered by feelings of lowliness or bashfulness when responding to God and when helping others towards eternal salvation.

Words here reach out to what is occurring in my life and thoughts. Frequently this book confirms the importance of receiving Jesus in the most Holy Eucharist and reflecting on His life. Mary Jo’s book is helpful for praying the rosary and meditating on its mysteries about the lives of Jesus and Mary. When asking for intercession from Mary I have always felt that she is so close to God—that oneness with Him. In this book Jesus is quoted as saying: “The one who knows my mother knows Me, the one who hears her hears Me, and the one who honors her honors Me,” exactly what I have felt.

From early on Mary gave to the needy and prayed for others. How important it is to encourage children and grandchildren to be more like her. Especially important to me were Mary's words encouraging being united in prayer, fasting, expectation and charity for receiving gifts and help from the Holy Spirit and overcoming evil. I thank the author for her perseverance in writing this book, which I think is Divinely inspired.

-----Ferrell McNeal from Arizona is a wife, mother and grandmother. She has served as an instructional health care assistant for students with special needs and has been a long-time member within the Catholic charismatic movement.

+ + +

***Mary's Life and Reflections* – A Review by Philomena Benson**

I love your book on *Mary's Life and Reflections* and find it very inspiring. You have done a great job of keeping it flowing, interesting, and enlightening. I read *The Mystical City of God* years ago, so I received a lot of refreshing related to its content when I read your edition. Thank you, Mary Jo, for the joy you bring in your many different writings, including *Medjugorje, Its Background and Messages*, about our dear Mary, mother of Jesus.

-----Philomena is a wife, mother and grandmother living in Paso Robles, California. As an emigrant from Ireland who deeply loves our Blessed Mother, she feels "Blessed" to be able to share her love for Mary with people from all religions. She says that the Rosary "has been a life-line" for her family, both in the past and continuing to this day—helping them grow closer to Jesus.

+ + +

A Review from Fr. Larry Gosselin, O.F.M. on *Mary's Life and Reflections*

Just recently coming to know of *The Mystical City of God* written by the Venerable Mary of Agreda, I find myself intrigued in wanting to learn further about her writings and experiences. Author Mary Joan Wallace has shown dedication, devotion and faith in providing careful and extensive research in her work *Mary's Life and Reflections as Seen in the Mystical City of God*. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Mary Jo for these faith-filled reflections providing greater understanding and for opening up this avenue of appreciating roles of Mary as seen through experiences of the Venerable Mary of Agreda.

-----Fr. Larry Gosselin, O.F.M., has served in California at Old Mission San Miguel and more recently at the Santa Barbara Mission.

+ + +