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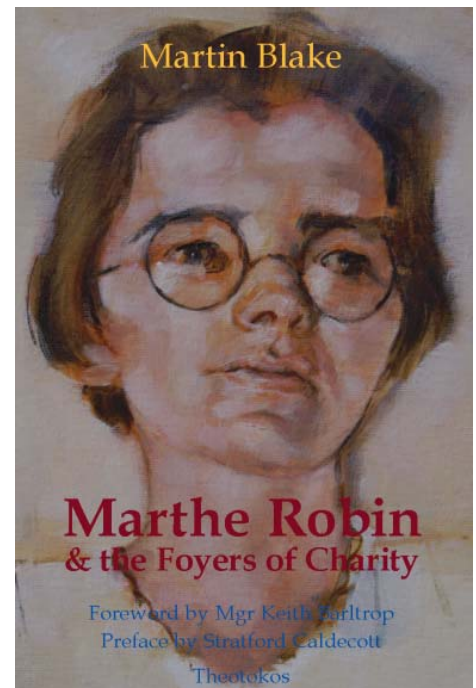
Marthe Robin and the Foyers of Charity, by Martin Blake

Marthe Robin and the Foyers of Charity looks at the life of Marthe Robin, the French mystic, who, with Fr Georges Finet, co-founded the Foyer of Charity community at Châteauneuf-de-Galaure in southeastern France in 1936. There are now 75 Foyer communities throughout the world, and their work involves a priest, the Father of the Foyer, giving 5 day retreats in silence, during which the members of the community look after the needs of the retreatants and pray for them.

Marthe Robin and the Foyers of Charity is paperback-softcover, Demy Octavo size (8.5 in. x 5.5 in.), has 13 chapters, and 160 pages. It costs £7.95 / \$11.95 / 8.95 euros, (approx. £10 incl. p & p if ordered online) ISBN 9780955074622

“Martin Blake is to be warmly thanked and congratulated on writing this informative and highly readable biography of Marthe for English-speaking readers. It is truly a ground-breaking work ...”

From the foreword by Mgr Keith Barltrop



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Review copies are also available - for details, please email: books@theotokos.org.uk

To order a copy of *Marthe Robin and the Foyers of Charity* please visit: www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/marthebook/marthebook.html or your local bookseller.

Extracts from the book, including the Foreword, Preface, Introduction and the first chapter, can be seen at: www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/marthebook/martheextract.pdf

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From the review by James Likoudis, emeritus President of Catholics United for the Faith

“This is a very readable volume about one of the most remarkable French mystics, and a true daughter of the Church, who lived in our own time (she was born in 1902 and reposed in the Lord in 1981, aged 78). Author Martin Blake succeeds in making her better known to English-speaking Catholics, since as Msgr. Keith Barltrop noted in the Foreword, “Marthe Robin was one of the most extraordinary and influential figures, not just of the twentieth century Church, but of all time.”

Cont'd over

Reviews of *Marthe Robin and the Foyers of Charity*, cont'd ...

...A valuable feature of the book are the striking personal testimonies to her extraordinary sanctity given by such distinguished philosophers as Jean Guitton, Marcel Clement, and Fr. Marie-Dominique Philippe, O.P., who were impressed with her simplicity, humility, and joy.”

From the review by Joanna Bogle, columnist, author, blogger, in *Faith Magazine*

“**[This] is an unsentimental and interesting book**, which sets out the facts of this unusual story very well. Marthe Robin was a young Frenchwoman, born in 1902, who contracted an illness while in her late teens, and eventually became an invalid, living in a darkened room because any light caused her intense pain, but writing and speaking in an ordinary way and revealing extraordinary wisdom, faith, and knowledge of spiritual things all conveyed with kindness and affection to her many visitors.

“And at the core of all this is the life of a mystic who suffered, prayed, and gave herself wholly to God. Marthe Robin’s cause for beatification has been introduced, so we will all be hearing about her in the years to come. **This remarkable paperback is an excellent introduction to the life of this mystic.** And it made me think that it would be rather good to have a Foyer in Britain.”

From a review by Fr Thomas Crean OP, author of *A Catholic Replies to Professor Dawkins*, *The Mass and the Saints*, and *Letters to a Non-believer*

“**This work has an importance that belies its shortness and unassuming style**, being the first book written originally in English about the 20th Century French mystic, Marthe Robin, foundress of the ‘Foyers of Charity’. While the name of Marthe Robin is known in this country, she has received far less attention here than in her native France, where Jean Guitton called her ‘the greatest genius I have ever met’, and Jean Daniélou spoke of her as ‘the most extraordinary person of the century’.

“The major theme of the book ... is the spiritual influence which Marthe Robin exercised on the many thousands who came into contact with her, and the importance of the ‘Foyers of Charity’ which from the 1930’s, she predicted would be part of ‘a new Pentecost of love’ within the Church.

“**Some of the most interesting testimonies in the book** are those of the philosopher and ‘academician’, Jean Guitton. He emphasises Marthe Robin’s naturalness, and her capacity to adapt her conversation to those to whom she spoke. He remarks on the paradox that it was while living for years in complete darkness that she spoke of ‘Foyers of light’.”

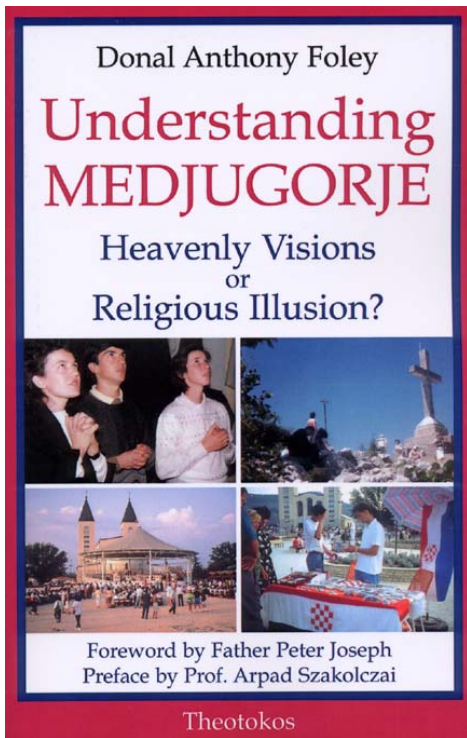
From the review by Francis Phillips in the *Catholic Herald*

“Although not yet well-known in this country, Marthe Robin, founder of one of the new movements in the Church, has had a huge and beneficial influence. Born at Chateauneuf-de-Galaure, near Lyon in 1902 and dying in 1981, she is one of those chosen souls who emerge throughout the Church’s history at times of barrenness or turbulence.

“To date there are more than 70 Foyers world-wide, specialising in five-day silent retreats for lay people in order to help form new generations of lay apostles. The spiritual daughter of St Therese of Lisieux and with the prophetic instincts of Cardinal Newman, Marthe recognised the urgent requirement in the 20th century of an active laity faithful to the Church.

“As Stratford Caldicott says in the preface, there is great need for a permanent Foyer in the UK. The author of **this valuable biography** has been actively working to bring this about since 1984.”

And finally ... Archbishop Mario Conti, of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, warmly commends this book!



Understanding Medjugorje

Heavenly Visions or Religious Illusion?

by Donal Anthony Foley

Understanding Medjugorje, is an in-depth examination of the alleged visions, which began in late June 1981, 25 years ago. It looks at all the relevant evidence concerning Medjugorje and the wider impact it has had. If you want to really appreciate why Medjugorje has assumed such a prominent place in the Church, then *Understanding Medjugorje* is required reading.

Understanding Medjugorje is Demy Octavo size (8.5 in. x 5.5 in.). It has 23 chapters, 310 pages, and a comprehensive index. It costs £12.95 / \$19.95 / 14.95 euros

“Understanding Medjugorje is excellent, a very balanced and informative study, which I hope will receive as wide a circulation as possible. It is a real credit to the author, and I hope it will serve the wider Church well regarding this particular phenomenon.”

Fergal Martin, General Secretary, Catholic Truth Society

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To order a copy of *Understanding Medjugorje* please visit: www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/medjbook/medjboo1.html or your local bookseller.

Please visit the link below for Reviews of *Understanding Medjugorje*:

<http://www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/medjbook/medjcomm.html>

In reading *Understanding Medjugorje* you will discover:

- How important Church figures, including the Pope and Cardinal Ratzinger, now Benedict VXXI, really view Medjugorje
- The role of influential priests and theologians in promoting Medjugorje
- The tangled historical and religious background to the visions
- The links between Medjugorje, the Charismatic Movement, and the worldwide Medjugorje movement
- How Medjugorje really compares with Fatima, and what the successive local bishops of Mostar have said about Medjugorje
- The degree of trustworthiness of both the visions and the visionaries
- The real significance of the alleged “good fruits” associated with Medjugorje, and why it has been so incredibly popular amongst many Catholics

Donal Anthony Foley has been investigating Marian apparitions since the mid-1990s. He has degrees in Humanities (BA) and Theology (BD), and his book on the subject – Marian Apparitions, the Bible, and the Modern World – was published by Gracewing in 2002. He has written articles for a number of Catholic magazines, including the Homiletic and Pastoral Review, and also maintains a related website at: www.theotokos.org.uk

Some extracts from Reviews of *Understanding Medjugorje*

Foley's book on Medjugorje defends the rational basis of faith, the realm of sound common sense, and the traditional wisdom of the Church in his argument that Medjugorje has created "a misguided quest for 'signs and wonders,'" and developed into "a vast, if captivating religious illusion." Examining the entire phenomenon of the apparitions from their inception in 1981 to the present, **Foley mounts compelling evidence that questions the authenticity of the visions of the seers.** The most cogent aspect of his argument contrasts the approved miracles at Fatima and Lourdes with the alleged appearances of the Holy Mother at Medjugorje.

In short, this book views the events at Medjugorje from a comprehensive, historical, objective point of view that avoids the religious enthusiasm and charismatic emotionalism of its advocates. This is an arresting book that poses an impressive intellectual and religious challenge to those who have never honestly questioned the authentic nature of the events at Medjugorje—[Dr Mitchell Kalpakgian, *The Wanderer*, 20 Aug 2009](#)

It has long seemed to me that a balanced and authoritative response would require a team of experts fluent in Croatian in order to untangle the complex phenomenon of Medjugorje ... **I am now fairly convinced that Donal Foley has done a great deal of that necessary work in assembling, untangling and sorting out the studies already carried out by experts and then weighing and evaluating them.**

—Msgr. Arthur B. Calkins, *Miles Immaculatae*, January-June 2009

British author Donal Anthony Foley, a well-known author on Marian apparitions, has written *Understanding Medjugorje: Heavenly Visions or Religious Illusion*. **English-speaking readers will find it an excellent summary of the evidence for and against the authenticity of the apparitions in the village of Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia.** Foley notes that the advocates of Medjugorje have too often ignored the 17 tape recordings of the interviews with the seers that took place after the alleged visions. These recordings of June 27, 28, 29, and 30, 1981, reveal such inconsistencies, contradictions, and bizarre comments in the seers' testimony that even Fr. Zovko himself was led to initially deny the authenticity of Our Lady's appearance! These first tape recordings are, moreover, at odds with later interviews held with the seers. —[James Likoudis, President-emeritus of CUF](#)

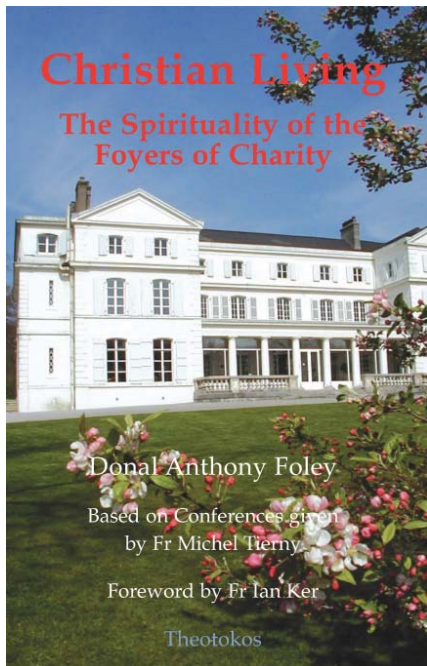
It is a good time to have a cool look at the claims and the truth [about Medjugorje]. This is done admirably in this book by Donal Foley—an expert on the appearances of Our Blessed Lady and, even more important, one with great devotion to her. **It is well written, examines all the available evidence and is, above all, clear.** It even has what is often absent in this kind of book an excellent index, comprehensive and logical. A select bibliography gives sources for further study and the many references and citations are given very clearly in notes at the back but enable the general reader to carry on without interruption. **This is a scholarly book but is easy to read** even when it guides the reader through the Hampton Court Maze of Balkans history and church feuds. **If you only read one book on Medjugorje, then make it this one.** —[Eric Hester, *Catholic Times*, UK, 25 June 2006](#)

From 24 June 1981 five teenagers and a younger boy from a small village in Bosnia-Herzegovina called Bijakovici near Medjugorje first began seeing apparitions on a local hill of someone they called "Gospa"—Croatian for "Our Lady". By 2004, when Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar, the local diocese, addressed a conference at Maynooth on the subject, 33,000 alleged visions had been seen and a possible 57 "secrets" had been imparted. As these sightings are still occurring daily to some of the original group, monthly or annually to others, the figures need constant revision. It is this phenomenon that Foley, author of the scholarly *Marian Apparitions, the Bible, and the Modern World*, seeks to investigate. The question he addresses is: are these visions from heaven or are they a religious illusion? Referring to the subject of the apparitions diplomatically as "the Vision", **he has conducted a painstaking and thorough investigation of every aspect of the case and, in an area fraught with strong, even aggressive opinions his tone is moderate and charitable throughout.** —[Jack Carrigan, *Catholic Herald*, UK, 14 May 2006](#)

Donal Foley takes the reader on a journey of discovery through the formidable information maze that surrounds Medjugorje. His tenacity in not losing the narrow path to the truth about the Balkan prodigy among many false trails and dead alleys would make Hercule Poirot jealous. Foley unearths little known Croatian sources and calls upon Catholic scholars to shed light on the enigma of Medjugorje. **He delivers what he promises and takes his readers to the heart of the matter. *Understanding Medjugorje* is excellent!**

—[John Hauf, editor emeritus, SOUL magazine, USA](#)

Complete versions of these reviews, and others, can be seen at:
www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/medjbook/medjcomm.html



Christian Living

The Spirituality of the Foyers of Charity

by Donal Anthony Foley

Christian Living is based on retreat Conferences given at the Foyer of charity at Courset, near Boulogne in France. It gives details of both the origin and the spirituality of the Foyers, and shows how a truly Christian life is possible even in our frenetic world, providing we are faithful to prayer. The spirituality of the Foyers is rooted in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church, and is very effective in promoting and supporting genuine Christian living.

Christian Living is paperback-softcover, Demy Octavo size (8.5 in. x 5.5 in.), have 18 chapters, and 160 pages. ISBN 0955074614, 160 pp, Paperback, £7.95 / \$11.95 / 8.95 euros.

“This slim book, attractively and simply written, gives us the authentic flavor of a Foyer retreat. It will be compulsive reading for anyone fascinated by Marthe Robin, whose spiritual influence on the Church in France can still be felt today, as well as for anyone interested in attending a retreat in one of the Foyers—or even contemplating joining one. And finally, it is ideal spiritual reading for the general reader.”

From the foreword by Fr Ian Ker

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To order a copy of *Christian Living* please visit: www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/books/foyerbook/foyerorder.html or your local bookseller.

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<http://www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/breviews/francisp/spirit07.html>

In reading *Christian Living* readers will learn about:

- How Marthe Robin and Fr Georges Finet founded the First Foyer in 1936
- Details of Church approval of the Foyer movement
- How we are all called to discipleship and holiness, to genuinely follow Christ
- How prayer must be an absolute priority in our lives if we are to do God's will
- The importance of making time for silence, meditation and contemplation
- The necessity for humility and detachment in the spiritual life
- How we are children of God and must look to him as our Father
- The importance of the role of Our Lady in our Christian lives
- How to live a better sacramental and family life

Donal Anthony Foley has been interested in the Foyers since the 1980's, and is involved in promoting them through the "English Friends of the Foyers." He has degrees in Humanities and Theology, and has previously written books on Marian apparitions. He has been on numerous Foyer retreats both in England and in France, and has also spent time living and working as a guest at several French Foyers.