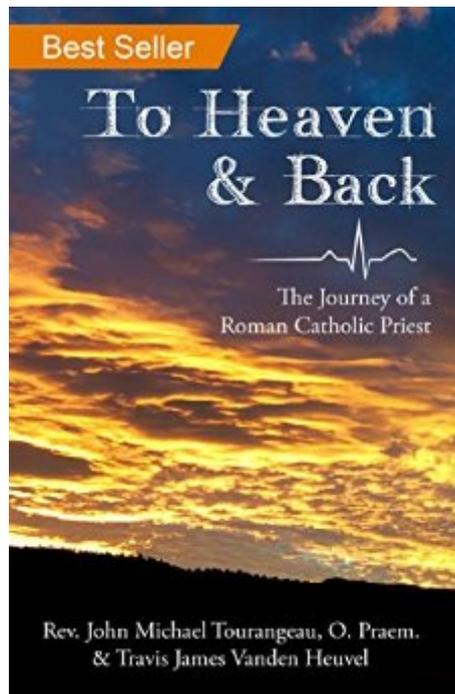


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To Heaven And Back: The Journey Of A Roman Catholic Priest



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."

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Customer Reviews

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. The story is told smoothly. It is a deceptively easy read that packs much power. The book is an expansion of the very popular presentations John has been giving to packed houses in the last few years. He clearly has a message people want and need to hear. I have recommended this book to the students in my spirituality class. I was personally moved by Fr John's story and felt that much of it was addressed to me personally. I suspect other readers will feel the same way. -Fr John L. Bostwick, O.Praem. Adjunct Instructor in Religious Studies,

Although there is only one chapter dedicated to the author meeting Jesus the book is still a fine read. Most of the book centers on the life of Rev. John from his childhood in upper Michigan to his becoming a priest and serving in different places and the adventures he went through.

To Heaven & Back is a must read! As someone who has always thought deeply about life and death I found this story moving, healing, and educational. It is a quick read but its message will last a lifetime. You are going to want to buy multiple copies; one to keep and extras to share - it makes a great gift! I have been anticipating the book release for several months and was pleasantly surprised when it arrived in 48 hours!

I work at St. Norbert College and have the good fortune of knowing both Father John Tourangeau and Travis Vandenhoevel, so I was looking forward to reading this book. I wasn't disappointed...it is a wonderful book! The fact that I read it in one day, and just couldn't put it down, speaks volumes about its quality. By the title, I thought the book might tell the story of man's spiritual journey to become a priest, but that's not what it's about. It's about Father John's near death experience (NDE) and how it has positively affected his life and relationships, here on earth. As I was reading it, I was

touched by how it resonated so deeply with me. Like all of us, Father John wrestles with life...this busy, imperfect, challenging daily ride that brings with it human struggle. Father John's NDE experience reinforces my belief that we must become as Christ himself practicing unconditional love for others. "While the fullness of heaven cannot be fully experienced in our life here on earth," Father John 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." May the reading of this book bring you the peace and joy that it has brought me.

I didn't like this book as much as I was hoping to. The story is interesting, but he goes back and forth in his life and the near death incident. I, personally, would have preferred to read the complete story of his near death experience and then his deeper views about it in the following chapters.

I really liked how Fr. John "pulls back the curtain" on his life and makes himself relatable to everyday people. As we often think of religious leaders as "white knights" we get a behind the scenes view, and realize that they are not much different than the people that you walk past on the street.

This is a true account of Father John's journey of his life after death experience. The book is very well written and was hard to put down! Once I started reading it I wanted to keep going until the end! What he explains in his book is exactly what I have been sensing for a few years. Father John writes, "Life, death and eternal life - heaven and earth- form one great mystery of God's infinite goodness to us from the beginning of creation."

Awesome book with awe inspiring words and inspiration. Anyone who struggled or is struggling with purpose and meaning in life should read this book. Powerful stories behind powerful words and meanings. A must have!!!!

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