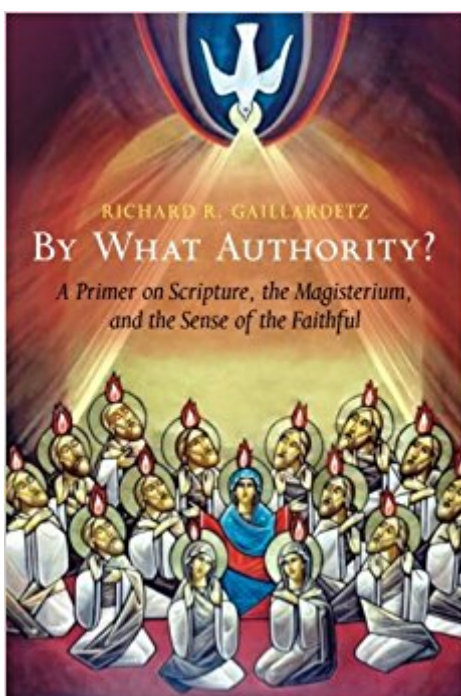


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By What Authority?: Primer On Scripture, The Magisterium, And The Sense Of The Faithful



Synopsis

Authority is exercised in many ways and forms in the Catholic Church today. *By What Authority?* offers a helpful introduction to the forms of Church authority that are concerned with authentic Christian belief. Gaillardetz (Gá,Æ' lã,Æ'r dã,â œã,â œ) explains what it means to say that the Bible is inspired, how Scripture and tradition are related to one another, the role of the Pope and bishops in preserving the Christian faith, the levels of Church teaching authority, how to deal with disagreements with Church teaching, the distinctive role of the theologians, and the contribution of all the baptized in the formation of Church teaching. This book introduces readers to a basic understanding of the nature and exercise of authority in the Catholic Church as understood within the Vision of the Church offered by the Second Vatican Council. The chapters conclude by outlining disputed issues regarding the topic of that chapter and a select list of opportunities for further reading. Chapters in Part One: The Authority of Scripture and Tradition are "What Does It Mean to Say the Bible is Inspired?" "What Is the Canon of the Bible?" - and "What Is the Relationship Between Scripture and Tradition?" - Chapters in Part Two: The Authority of Church Teaching and the Church's Teaching Office are "How Do We Understand the Magisterium Today?" - "How Do the Pope and Bishops Exercise Their Teaching Authority?" - and "What Is Dogma and Doctrine?" - Chapters in Part Three: The Authority of the Believer and the Believing Community are "What Is the Sense of the Faithful?" - "Is There a Place for Disagreement in the Catholic Church?" - and "What Is the Proper Relationship Between the Magisterium and Theologians?" - Richard R. Gaillardetz, PhD, is the Margaret and Thomas Murray and James J. Bacik Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo. Among his other publications is *Teaching with Authority*, published by Liturgical Press. He is an official delegate on the U.S. Catholic - Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue. In 2000 he received the Sophia Award from the faculty of the Washington Theological Union in recognition of "theological excellence in service to ministry." - "

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Customer Reviews

Respected Catholic theologian Richard Gaillardetz takes up important topics that are too often neglected in modern biblical studies and theology. Drawing on the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and the full spectrum of Catholic tradition, he provides the lay reader with clear explanations of such issues as revelation, biblical inspiration and inerrancy, the authority of the biblical canon, the relationship of Scripture and tradition, the authority of the magisterium and other levels of Church teaching, the role of dissent, and the *sensus fidelium*. Just to name this list of contents is to signal the importance of a solid and reliable exposition such as this. The Bible Today Anyone who wants a teachable, balanced, lucid, yet comprehensive text on authority in the church need look no further. Church Richard Gaillardetz has earned a reputation as a leading authority on the theology of the magisterium. Taking his point of departure from Vatican II's teaching on divine revelation, he shows how revelation is mediated symbolically through the stories and traditions of God's people. His book guides the reader skillfully through difficult questions such as the nature of biblical inspiration, the gradual emergence of the canon, the relation between Scripture and tradition, the authority of the Church's teaching office as well as that of the believing community. A chapter asking if there is a place for 'disagreement' in the Catholic Church is particularly wise. Written with an admirable clarity and simplicity, his book is honest, timely, and deeply Catholic. Thomas P. Rausch, SJ, T. Marie Chilton Professor of Catholic Theology, Loyola Marymount University Gaillardetz sets himself the task of synthesizing and presenting in an accessible manner the theological work on revelation and church teaching authority appearing since Vatican II. He succeeds in a remarkably clear and engaging way. Pastoral Music Gaillardetz's book is written as an honest and charitable presentation of the current teaching of the hierarchical magisterium, with a respectful treatment of the authority of sovereign conscience for each and all believers. . . . This book will whet your appetite to re-read these sacred texts with renewed interest. America Gaillardetz has emerged as one of the few true authorities on the authority of the Catholic Church. By some miracle he has managed to balance not only tradition and development, but also first-rate theology with wide accessibility. I will use this as a text in my course on the Church. Dennis M. Doyle, Religious Studies,

University of Dayton Will Rogers said, 'We're all educated, only its about different things.' This sage observation came to mind as I read *By What Authority?* Many well educated, even professional, Catholics retain a somewhat elementary knowledge of Catholic belief and teaching. This book is a lucid, balanced guide for the interested inquirer on such complex questions as the sense of the faithful, the role of theologians and church authority, and the various levels of church teaching. A great contribution, this book should be widely read. Most Rev. John R. Quinn, Archbishop Emeritus of San Francisco This work is a great resource for those interested in understanding the several sources and practical uses of authority within contemporary Catholicism. Catholic Books Review

Richard R. Gaillardetz holds the Joseph Chair of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. He has published numerous articles and has authored or edited ten books, including *Keys to the Council: Unlocking the Teaching of Vatican II* (co-authored with Catherine Clifford, Liturgical Press, 2012) and *Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent* (Orbis, 2008). Dr. Gaillardetz has been a delegate on the US Catholic-Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue and served as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America between 2013 and 2014.

Thanks

text for class

Richard Gaillardetz is one of the most perceptive and skilled theologians around, as well as being gifted with the ability to write in a simple and clear manner. I say this having read and used a number of his other publications in articles and teaching. This little book on the Magisterium is more evidence of that. He is faithful to the Magisterium while explaining it in a way that makes sense to anyone willing to read the material. This is a solid introductory presentation on the topic of the Magisterium that can be used for undergraduate theology students or interested general readers.

Great product! Was received on time

My instructor has this as one of our primary readings and I appreciated getting it so fast. I was able to start on it ahead of time, excellent.

This is a much needed book on the subject. It clearly explains the interrelationship between

Scripture, the Magisterium (i.e., the Church's teaching office), and Tradition. The author methodically and painlessly guides the reader through a somewhat complicated subject, leaving him/her with a distinct sense of increased understanding. Simplified, but never simplistic. A must read for every Catholic, and interested Protestant alike.

Terrific Description of the sources/ hierarchy of doctrinal authority in the Church!

Richard Gaillardetz is a highly respected theologian. Here he gives an clear understanding of how Catholic Church teaching develops and what "authority" means.

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