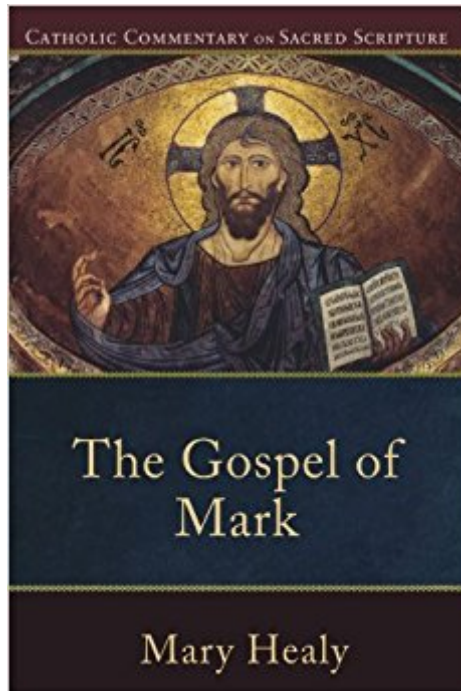


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The Gospel Of Mark (Catholic Commentary On Sacred Scripture)



Synopsis

There is an increasing hunger among Catholics to study the Bible in depth and in a way that integrates Scripture with Catholic doctrine, worship, and daily life. In October 2008, a meeting of the world Synod of Bishops scheduled by Pope Benedict XVI will focus on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." Coinciding with that meeting is the launch of the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture (C.C.S.S.), a series that responds to the desire of Catholics to access the living Word of God. The Gospel of Mark is the first of seventeen volumes, which will cover the entire New Testament. Written by trusted Catholic biblical scholars, these commentaries interpret Scripture in the light of Catholic tradition. Accessibly written yet substantive, the C.C.S.S. fills a gap in the available literature by offering commentaries that cover more than brief study guides but are less daunting than scholarly commentaries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This well-written book fills a very important niche in our appreciation of the Gospels. Healy combines literary sensitivity with theological vigor, resulting in a reading of Mark that puts a compelling face on the message of this Gospel."--Gary Anderson, University of Notre Dame
Mary Healy skillfully and insightfully moves her readers to plumb the spiritual depths of Mark's Gospel. I have found her commentary a boon in homily preparation. If the other volumes in the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture live up to the high standard that Healy has attained, Catholic

Christians will be enriched and grateful."--Robert J. Karris, OFM, The Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University

Praise for the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture

"Coinciding with the Bishops' Synod on 'The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church,' this seventeen-volume commentary on the New Testament represents a much-needed approach, based on good scholarship but not overloaded with it. The frequent references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church help us to read Holy Scripture with a vivid sense of the Living Tradition of the Church."--Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna

"This series richly provides what has for so long been lacking among contemporary scriptural commentaries. Its goal is to assist Catholic preachers and teachers, lay and ordained, in their ministry of the word. Moreover, it offers ordinary Catholics a scriptural resource that will enhance their understanding of God's word and thereby deepen their faith. Thus these commentaries, nourished on the faith of the Church and guided by scholarly wisdom, are both exegetically sound and spiritually nourishing."--Thomas G. Weinandy, OFM Cap, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"The Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture is a landmark achievement in theological interpretation of Scripture in and for the Church. Everything about it is inviting and edifying, from the format, photos, background notes, and cross-references to the rich exposition of the text, quotations from the Church's living tradition, and reflections for contemporary life. It is a wonderful gift to the Catholic Church and a model for the rest of us. Highly recommended for all!"--Michael J. Gorman, St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore

Mary Healy (S.T.D., Pontifical Gregorian University) is associate professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, and senior fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. She is the author of *Men and Women Are from Eden* and coeditor of several books on biblical interpretation.

I've heard about Mary Healy. I have listened to the author talk about womanhood (on EWTN.com) as the words from her mouth dazzled the panelists and myself with understandable theology mixed with sociology and plain human reason. I am prejudiced toward her, knowing her education, training, and life in a community at Mother of God in Gaithersburg, MD when she was a leader in a lay Apostolic Movement in the Renewal. Reading the book was a drama, a delight, an inspiration and technical only at times. I earned my B.S. degree in Education, but I can tell potential readers that I recommend *The Gospel of Mark* to begin in high school, an *Opening into the haven of Holy Scripture*. Something you will pursue your entire life long!

I am an ordained Roman Catholic Permanent Deacon who has used this book twice to teach a bible study class on Mark's Gospel. Simply put, Mary Healy's commentary is superb in all respects - highly informative, inspirational, authentic in its exegesis, and easily read and understood. One feature that I especially like is her inclusion of factual and historical "box inserts" in each chapter to educate readers on important information pertaining to that specific set of scriptural text. Anyone interested in taking a deep and enjoyable dive into the Gospel of Mark should put this book at the top of their list.

I found this Catholic Commentary series while searching for help in preparing for a parish bible sharing group. Mark is the first book in the series that I purchased and used. I find myself reading past the passage I am preparing due to Mary Healy's style. A few reviewers have said that her book is a great homily help and I can see why. She has taken academic language and interpreted it in the style of the layperson. She uses the text of the New American Bible. It also has a Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur. I found the format clear, easy to follow and the paperback text easy on the eyes. The bible passage is given followed by the commentary which gives historical background, pulls in relevant New and Old Testament passage as well as referencing the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Church Fathers are relied upon and used to illuminate the text. Most passages have a "Reflection and Application" section that makes the Commentary more than just an academic subject - it brings what Jesus said or did back to modern day life. Further information is given in "Biblical Background" and "Living Tradition" inserts. The reference helps in the back consist of "Suggested Resources," "Glossary" and "Index of Pastoral Topics". The resource section provided references that are scholarly, from the Tradition and popular, many I had not heard of. All in all I would heartily recommend this text to anyone interested in studying the Gospel of Mark on their own or in a group. I do not think they will be disappointed.

I used this book in my parish's Bible study group when we spent about 10 weeks on the Gospel of Mark. It is a co-ed group of adults ranging in age from early 40's to early 80's. Overall, the reaction was quite positive and it was refreshing to find a Catholic commentary that was both scholarly and readable. I asked the group to rate the commentary and 15 of the members filled out my rating form. A theme running through the comments of those who rated the book was that it was easy to read and that Mary Healy made Mark's gospel easier to understand. A couple of people thought the commentary was too repetitive. One person thought the commentary's treatment of the exorcisms

performed by Jesus was troubling because the book kept emphasizing that demons are real and gave the impression that each of the exorcisms in the gospel involved a person who was truly possessed by the devil. Two of the people who rated the book complained about the quality of the production, pointing out that the material printed in the grey boxes was extremely difficult to read. Several members of the group were grateful that the author of the commentary consistently tried to help readers see how the gospel might be applied in our daily lives.

This is a really great commentary. Healy combines a lot of the information that I have in a variety of other commentaries (both Catholic and Protestant), but then pulls it all together with additional observations that make it very accessible while still being scholarly. She follows up many sections with items for reflection. Sometimes I am enlightened by the factual information which gives me new insights into the text. Sometimes it is from the material for reflection. However, it is a rare day that I fail to come away with an insight that I ponder the rest of the day. Highest recommendation and I will be getting another in the series after I am done with this book.

An outstanding book; as a priest, this book serves me as a regular resource for homiletics, providing critical analysis and insight into the Gospel of Mark. Mary Healy's scholarship is evident, and the structure of the book collects precise verses that seem to align naturally with lectionary themes and uses of Mark's Gospel in the cycle of readings.

As a new member of the Catholic church (though not Christianity), I really appreciate this book for the very in-depth nature in which it presents Mark without being unapproachable. It tries to present scholarly disagreements with even handedness. I think all Christians who finds it their calling to look into intellectual things Christian should study the Gospels in this level of detail.

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