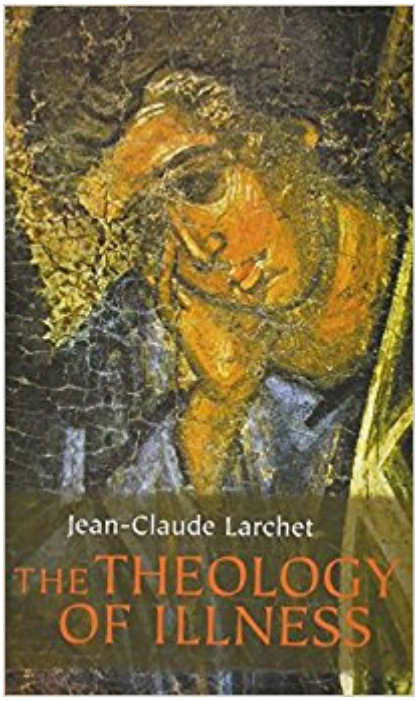
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The Theology Of Illness



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Synopsis

This book offers us fresh insight into the mystery of evil, sin, and illness, and their place within our struggle toward holiness... It gives us renewed hope, by locating the "problem of pain" in a profoundly theological framework, in which ultimate resolution of the mystery of illness and suffering is provided by the healing touch of Christ Himself, the Physician of our souls and bodies. John Breck, from the Foreword Jean-Claude Larchet's The Theology of Illness, already translated into several languages, now appears in English and explores biblical and patristic perspectives on sickness and redemptive suffering. The questions Larchet considers are fundamental: the origins of sin in a fallen world, its impact on physical health, and the healing of human nature by the incarnate Son of God. He explains healing as a means of glorifying God, stressing again the crucial role of prayer and sacramental grace in promoting genuine health. When illness plunges us into unfamiliar territory, even to the point of death, Larchet teaches us to marshal spiritual reserves in a society dominated by technology and materialism. In a time when the physician has been dubbed the high priest of the god of Modern Medicine, Larchet encourages us to situate these crucial experiences within the framework of their relationship to the unique reality of the Holy Trinity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jean-Claude Larchet is an Orthodox layman and a professor of philosophy in a French lycee in Strasbourg

This is an excellent little book. It was quite readable and not terribly difficult to understand, yet offering some important instruction on both illness and healing from a spiritual perspective. The author provides clear understanding about the relationship between sin and illness, while steering clear of negative judgment of individuals who are sick. His discussion on healing is intelligent, deeply rooted in the spiritual without categorically rejecting medical treatment. I found particularly helpful his guidance on what to pray for with regard to illness - I won't be a spoiler and tell you the answer in this review :-).Also, as another reviewer noted, the book includes ample quotes and footnotes. However, I could follow the meaning of the text readily without deep study of the footnotes. I found it assuring that Larchet had clearly based his work on the Church Fathers and not some passing personal notions. In addition, at a later time, I may want to go back and read some of his sources.I find myself referencing ideas in the book in discussion with others. I loaned the book to someone else almost as soon as I finished reading it. These, for me, are signs of a spiritual book of lasting value.

I was diagnosed with a terminal illness which could bring intense affliction with it. This book puts illness in God's perspective and helps one to turn the affliction into spiritual benefit. He quotes the early church fathers in his theological treatise. Its a practical book, not an academic one; excellent for health care providers and people suffering with illness.

This book establishes a clear understanding of the ultimate humanity of each individual who experiences the effects of physical illness. By constantly keeping its focus on the Source and Goal of our humanity it encourages the reader to be active in seeking a healing which is total and salvific. Personally, I consider it a stylistic flaw of the author to be incessantly quoting from one source after another. But if you can get past that, this is a lovely guide.

Everyone concerned with the theological view of illness and health needs to read this book. Using the writings of the Church Fathers as support Larchet reviews the Christian outlook regarding sin, illness, health and God's use of caregivers.Highly recommended.

excellent

If one is at all interested in the spiritual meaning of illness this book is a great starting point. Understanding God's use of illness and how it's ultimate purpose is to prosper the soul brings great

insight.

This is an interesting topic, one in which there has been little real work. I have found it especially helpful when I make hospital visits. People often have a tendency to want to blame God for their physical or mental ailments; I know I did. This work examines this issue in light of the Church Fathers, and for me at least, it was a helpful read.

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