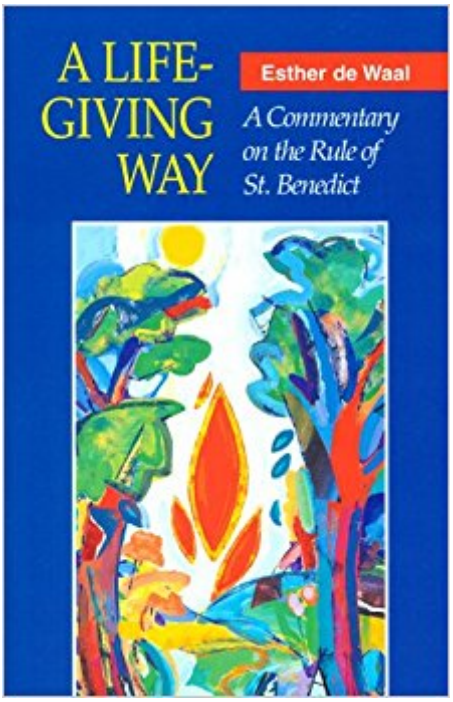
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A Life-Giving Way: A Commentary On The Rule Of St. Benedict



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Synopsis

Esther de Waal comes to the Rule of St. Benedict as a lay woman who has studied the Rule and striven to live it. Benedict has been for her both supportive and challenging, both guide and prophet. His Rule asks not for blind obedience and conformity but for personal responsibility.While the Rule offers much to those seeking a pattern to the structure of their day-to-day, exterior" life, which de Waal's previous commentaries have addressed, this commentary focuses on what Benedict tells us about the interior life. It takes the shape of prayerful reflections on his words of wisdom regarding the disposition of the heart. It leads the reader, as the Rule was meant to lead the novice, to answer the very personal question we must all, as Christians, answer: "Am I truly seeking God?" Includes a copy of the Rule.Esther de Waal is a well-known author whose interests lie particularly in monastic and Celtic spirituality. Her first book, Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict (The Liturgical Press), continues to be a bestseller and has-been translated world wide. It was followed by Living with Contradiction: Further Reflections on the Rule and, most recently, A World Made Whole: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition and A Seven Day Journey with Thomas Merton. She is married with four grown-up sons and lives in the Welsh Borders."

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages
Publisher: Liturgical Press; First Edition edition (November 1, 1995)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 9780814623589
ISBN-13: 978-0814623589
ASIN: 0814623581
Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #467,563 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Monasticism & Asceticism #114 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Monasticism & Asceticism #538 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Institutions & Organizations

Customer Reviews

It is full of warmth and human understanding.The TabletShe invites the reader to enter into her own reflection, which concentrates always on the universal issues and the perspectives of the word of

God which underlie and are woven into the text. . . . Anyone who reads in the spirit in which it is written will be brought closer to the gospel message.Patrick Barry, O.S.B., Abbot, Ampleforth AbbeyAuthoritatively yet sensitively, the author explores this sixth-century Rule, in which Benedict invites us to 'come home to ourselves,' accepting and blending body, mind and spirit in daily service to God.The UniverseThe author's limpid prose is a joy to read. She draws out of the Rule each of the crucial elements in Benedict's teaching: the use of Scripture in the practice of the lectio divina is set out in its four stages and the three vows are also elucidated and their implications outlined.Stephen Platten, Norwich Cathedral, England

Esther de Waal in simple and practical terms, writing on how the Rule of St. Benedict has shaped her life, takes the reader chapter by chapter through the Rule. She details how profoundly biblical it is and how this text, which has formed the way of life of Benedictines and other monastics since the sixth century, also serves as guide for lay people of all denominations.

Great book to guide us through the REAL way to living! The Rule of St. Benedict is really not a "rule" but a wonderful suggestion for living well!

Esther de Waal incorporates her own lived experience of following the Rule of Benedict as a lay person. She has a deep understanding of the core values of Benedictine life and of the Gospel that Benedict was asking of those who wanted to seek God along with others in a monastery under a Rule and an Abbot.

Anyone interested in finding a 'way' of life, this is a perfect fit. Esther gives lots of explanation to the Benedictine Rule that is applicable to today. The book was in perfect condition and received in a timely manner. Thank you!

Wonderful commentary with great insights for anyone who wants to apply Benedict's Rule to their everyday lives.

De Waal has made a name for herself by adapting Benedict for the laity.This latest of her works is perhaps the least accessible, andit by no means a place to start in getting to know the saint of Monte Cassino. Christians who already order their lives by drawing from the centuries-old "Rule," however, will want to read it cover to cover. She goes through each chapter and gives, not a

scholarly but a personal commentary on its meaning. Many references to other works of Benedictine scholarship. Don't have a copy of the "Rule" handy? (You must have one to get anything out of this work at all.) Liturgical Press will send you one free if you return the postpaid card that comes with de Waal's book. What a deal!

De Waal's commentary brings the 6th century "Rule of Benedict" into my 21st century life and home, revealing how relevantly Benedict's wisdom speaks to our modern age. Another recently published book, a modern commentary on the Rule, written for parents, is titled THE FAMILY CLOISTER: BENEDICTINE WISDOM FOR THE HOME, by David Robinson (New York, NY: Crossroad, 2000).

Esther de Waal has managed to bring the Rule of Benedict to life by insightfully applying it to life lived in the world, not just for an enclosed Benedictine community.

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