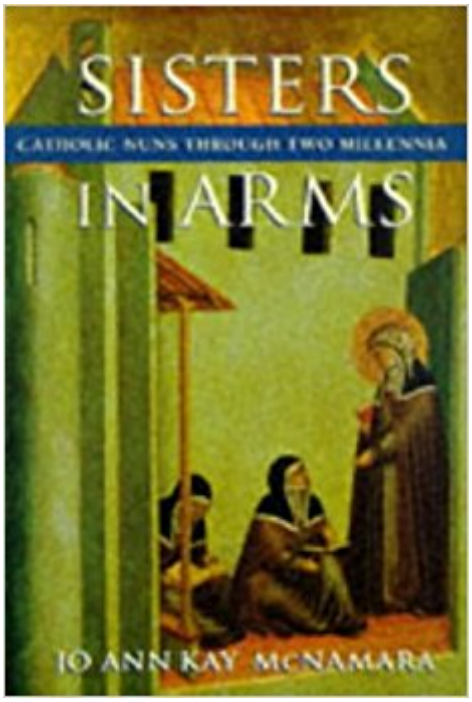
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Sisters In Arms: Catholic Nuns Through Two Millennia



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Spanning two thousand years of Christian religious women's quest for spiritual and vocational fulfillment, Sisters in Arms is the first definitive history of Catholic nuns in the Western world. Unfolding century by century, this epic drama encompasses every period from the dawn of Christianity to the present. History has until recently minimized the role of nuns over the centuries. In this volume, their rich lives, their work, and their importance to the Church are finally acknowledged. Jo Ann Kay McNamara introduces us to women scholars, mystics, artists, political activists, healers, and teachers--individuals whose religious vocation enabled them to pursue goals beyond traditional gender roles. They range from Thecla, the legendary companion of Paul, who baptized herself in preparation for facing the lions in the Roman arena, to Hildegard of Bingen, whose visions unlocked her extraordinary talents for music, medicine, and moral teaching in the twelfth century. They also include Sister Mary Theresa Kane, who stood before the pope--and an American television audience-in 1979 and urged him to consider the ordination of women. By entering the convent, McNamara shows, nuns gained a community that allowed them to evolve spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally; but the convent was never a perfect refuge. Women's struggles continued against the male church hierarchy, the broader lay community, and the larger cultural and historical forces of change. The history of nuns is an important part of the larger story of western women whose gender provoked resistance to their claims to autonomy and power. As we enter the third millennium, this groundbreaking work pays fitting tribute to the sisters who have labored with prayer and service for two thousand years, who have struggled to achieve greater recognition and authority, and who have forged opportunities for all women while holding true to the teachings of the Gospel.

Book Information

Paperback: 768 pages
Publisher: Harvard University Press (February 11, 1998)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0674809858
ISBN-13: 978-0674809857
Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 2 x 9.2 inches
Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #275,024 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks >

Humanities > Religious Studies > Religious History #303 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Institutions & Organizations #686 inÃ Â Books > History > World > Religious > General

Customer Reviews

In this compelling analysis of women who have given their lives to religion since the advent of Christ, Jo Ann Kay McNamara challenges that although the church was the first institution to accept women, "the Catholic clergy remains the last womanless place." McNamara maintains that despite reverence for vows of chastity, history has repeatedly shown that "uncontrolled virginity" is believed to be "as dangerous as uncontrolled sexuality." Nuns during the French Revolution were tried for treason for their "persistent chastity," and the rape of a nun has always symbolized a certain triumph over personal will. Despite numerous injustices, McNamara is careful to balance her book with an impressive list of accomplishments by these dedicated women. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

While the Roman Catholic church has continued to oppose the ordination of women to the priesthood, the history of the church is filled with chronicles of women who have been instrumental in transmitting the religious teachings of the church as well as in performing acts of charity under the auspices of the church. Although women in the church were denied access to positions of religious authority traditionally held by men, many of these women gathered themselves into religious orders where they could express their devotion to God and church through teaching, missionary activity, social activism and prayer. McNamara traces the development of women’s pursuit of spiritual fulfillment and religious vocation from the Apostolic Age through the Middle Ages to the modern world. Throughout this wide-ranging narrative, we are introduced to women like Paul’s companion, Thecla, who baptised herself in preparation for her martyrdom, and Sister Mary Theresa Kane, who in 1979 publicly petitioned the pope to ordain women. McNamara’s fascinating guide through the lives and work of Catholic nuns over the last two thousand years reveals both the successes and failures of these women who have played such significant roles in the history of the Catholic church. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a highly detailed and intelligent account of lives in convents from the beginnings of Christianity until the present. It gives important information about the role of Church politics in

determining the restrictions on the nuns, and gives plenty of detail of their daily lives. The reader can get a clear picture of what life was like for the women who either chose convent life in the past or had it chosen for them. My only complaint is that it is so vast and contains so much information that it is hard to keep track of its various threads. A few charts or summaries would help.

McNamara is just as fine a writer as she is a professor. I was honored to study under her and enjoyed every single moment of her class. Her book is just as she is -- sharp, insightful, witty, and great company. She helps bring a potentially dry subject to wonderful life.

It is 700 page book. A good editing job would have reduced it to 300 pages and made a much easier read.Convents were much more complicated than I realized. They play a substantial role in social and economic development, escecially for women. I am supprised that observation is not more widely know and explored by historians.

2,000 years of women’s contributions (specifically nuns) within Christianity are covered in 644 pages. It is not an easy task or even plausible to cover every single detail, but McNamara did a great job in portraying a wide spectrum of experiences. Whenever we look at the history of any subject, one book is never enough. But Sisters in Arms is a definitive book that should be included by anyone interested in the history of women within Christianity. Both the good and the bad come out in this book; there is no battle over the sexes in this book. Women are portrayed from different parts of the world with different experiences. It is amazing and inspiring to see the obstacles in the way of these women and how they dealt with them. It is an insult to claim that talking about the horrors of history is only a person whining with no reason (No Jew would take such criticism if someone would degrade all the suffering they have gone through for over 4,000 years and no woman should either). This book is a fresh reminder of the hopes, suffering and accomplishments that celibate women have shared with the world for over 2,000 years.

This is a comprehensive work, compiling history that is often difficult to find. I’m so glad I purchased this volume!!

Good history

Jo Ann McNamara is professor of history at Hunter College and at the graduate center of the City

University of New York; she has also written books such asÃ Â A New Song: Celibate Women in the First Three Christian Centuries,Sainted Women of the Dark Ages,Gilles Aycelin: The Servant of Two Masters, etc.She wrote in the Preface to this 1996 book, "the title 'Sisters in Arms' evokes the comradeship which has always given the military life its luster of heroism and virtue. Our sisters have been united in a long war not only against the enemies of their religion but also against the misogynist elements within that religion that have mocked and constrained their efforts. Like Voltaire, I have grown up to be a secular humanist, yet, like him, I must concede that all I am I owe to my Catholic education." (Pg. x)She notes that in New Testament times, "The widows may have acted as a particular unit or subdivision within the group, possibly even directed by Jesus' mother and the women who had been with her at Jesus' death. Peter came to be credited with the institution of three orders of widows." (Pg. 18) Later, "Women who adopted the appearance and lives of men infiltrated the literature of the ascetic movement... the typical story follows her as she joins a male community and lives among the monks undetected. In some stories, the heroine's sanctity is so outstanding that she is elected abbot, the truth being uncovered when the dying saint confesses to avert violation by her ignorant followers after her death." (Pg. 68)But later, "Many monks failed to follow Cassian's lead in making provision for women as well as men." (Pg. 91) She observes, "Monks learned to fear and shun women as nuns learned to fear men and fear their own sexual attractions... They took precautions to prevent intimacy between the sexes but they were equally uneasy about the perils of attraction within the same sex. Female monasteries normally had a fairly large cluster of men attached to them as priests or laborers, and fellow monastics were obvious candidates for these places. Indeed, many factors promoted cross gender identification between monks and nuns." (Pg. 144)She points out that in the Medieval period, "Some women are known as a matter of course to have performed quasi-liturgical services involving caring for vestments, supplying oil, wine, and other ingredients for the ceremonies, lighting candles, and ringing bells. It is highly probable that women in a number of parishes and monastic establishments also filled in as acolytes and in other auxiliary capacities for priests." (Pg. 153) She states, "The Carolingians ... viewed convents as a convenient place to store women not serving as wives or mothers. Royal women often found convents comfortable and attractive places for permanent or temporary retirement." (Pg. 169)She notes, "In 1298, Boniface VIII... decreed that all religious women everywhere must be cloistered. He stressed the peril of men's inability to resist raping women and women's natural inability to refrain from tempting men... Although the bull did little to change and actual daily lives of most religious women, they remained in force and were reinstated at the Council of Trent and again at the First Vatican Council in the nineteenth century." (Pg. 317)

She recounts, "The Dutch reformer Gerhard Groote... maintained that the provision of dowries encouraged donors to use monasteries for incapacitated and unwanted children. The evidence that dowry inflation and other family strategies impelled parents to place their daughters in chronically overcrowded convents remains compelling." (Pg. 354)She admits, "Just as come convents were crucibles of mystics, others were barrels of bad apples... It is true that nuns from at least thirty three convents were prosecuted for fornication and others may have escaped uncharged. The greatest number, however, were heavily concentrated in one particular convent. Nuns from the notorious Sant'Angelo di Contorto entertained lovers in their private cells, and their abbess occasionally took them out for picnics and other excursions with their lovers... Sant'Angelo was closed down in 1478." (Pg. 358) She states, "Protestants blamed their failure to convert nuns on the sisters' stiff-necked, disobedient attitude. They saw them as undisciplined womanhood, ever prone to rebellion against all authority." (Pg. 446)This is a detailed, fascinating history of women religious that will be "must reading" for anyone seriously studying the matter.

One of the only books available to provide an overview of the orders from beginning to recent times. Readers are likely to be surprised by the diversity of the early orders, and the range of growth and the transitions they have made over the centuries. The majority of the text describes the development of the orders, providing fascinating insight to some of the practises that have come and gone over the years. Detailing social culture that surrounded the convents as well as the communities within the convents, it provides context to the lives of the nuns. This book may not present the ideally framed version of history many would like to see, especially if you're pursuing some notion of blissful cloistered weak women protected by the Church. Politics aside, this is a compelling view into the lives of women through the centuries who have exhibited strength in their dedication to their ideals with or without the aid of men.

Download to continue reading...

Sisters in Arms: Catholic Nuns through Two Millennia If Nuns Ruled the World: Ten Sisters on a Mission s, Wives, Nuns, and Witches: Women and the Catholic Church in Colonial Brazil, 1500-1822 (Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture) The Turks: The Central Asian Civilization That Bridged the East and The West for Over Two Millennia (Turkish History Book 1) All Things Lovely All Things Lovely Catholic Journal Color Doodle: Catholic Devotional for Teen Girls in all Departments Catholic Devotional for Women ... Books for Teens Girls Teen Girls in all Dep Catholic Christianity: A Complete Catechism of Catholic Church Beliefs Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church The Bad Catholic's Guide to Wine, Whiskey, & Song: A Spirited Look at Catholic

Life & Lore from the Apocalypse to Zinfandel (Bad Catholic's guides) 2000X: Tales of the Next Millennia The Maya Forest Garden: Eight Millennia of Sustainable Cultivation of the Tropical Woodlands (New Frontiers in Historical Ecology) One Hundred Great Jewish Books: Three Millennia of Jewish Conversation Nora Roberts Three Sisters Island CD Collection: Dance Upon the Air, Heaven and Earth, Face the Fire (Three Sisters Island Trilogy) The Unusual Suspects (Sisters Grimm #2) (The Sisters Grimm) The Problem Child (Sisters Grimm #3) (The Sisters Grimm) The Fairy-Tale Detectives (Sisters Grimm #1) (The Sisters Grimm) Zabime Sisters, The (The Zabime Sisters) The Christmas Sisters (The Christmas Sisters for All Seasons Book 1) Shadows Stir at Seven Sisters (Seven Sisters Series Book 3) Studies In Cistercian Art And Architecture: Cistercian Nuns and Their World (Cistersian Studies) Florence Nightingale's Nuns (Saints for Youth) Nuns Having Fun Wall Calendar 2018

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help