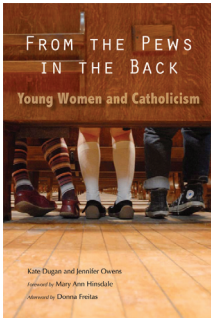


# News Release

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## FROM THE PEWS IN THE BACK YOUNG WOMEN AND CATHOLICISM

*Edited by Kate Dugan and Jennifer Owens;*

*Foreword by Mary Ann Hinsdale;*

*Afterword by Donna Freitas*

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## Hear the voices in this breakthrough book

**Young Catholic women speak out in humorous, poetic, and intriguing stories**

**COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA**—Liturgical Press is pleased to announce the publication of *From the Pews in the Back*, an exploration of the identity of young Catholic women.

As young women of the Catholic faith struggle to discover their identity in the church, editors Kate Dugan and Jennifer Owens present twenty-nine poignant essays from women ages eighteen to thirty-five who share their experiences, ask tough questions, and do not accept easy answers.

*From the Pews in the Back* offers a unique glimpse into what it means to be young, Catholic, and female in today's church. Just as women have fought for equal voting rights and wages, young women are fighting to claim a place in the church where they are accepted and embraced; no longer consigned to the pews in the back. The quest for understanding women's role and relationship with the church is guided by the voices in these memoirs. They range from inspiring and energetic to challenging and wounded. Ultimately, these women have put their foot down and are breaking ground on uniting young Catholic women with the Catholic church.

Nicole Sotelo, author of *Women Healing from Abuse: Meditations for Finding Peace* (Paulist Press) emphasizes that, "In a church that does not always listen to the voices of women, it is critical that we have pages in which to share our stories and gain strength from one another's journeys. It is in the sharing of stories that hearts are changed and transformation begins. Read these stories, be inspired to share your story and, together, we'll move the church one step closer to justice!"

The book is just the beginning. Dugan and Owens continue to bring women together and offer a place to share stories, ideas, and meditations on their website [www.fromthepewsintheback.com](http://www.fromthepewsintheback.com).

Kate Dugan was baptized, made First Reconciliation, received First Communion, was confirmed, and married in Immaculate Conception Parish in Watertown, South Dakota. She graduated from the College of St. Benedict and received her Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. This fall, she will begin a PhD program in religion at Northwestern University. Jennifer Owens has spent most of her academic life and all of her teaching career in Catholic schools in Southern California. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in teaching from Loyola Marymount University. Jennifer recently completed her Master of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School and will begin doctoral studies in systematic and philosophical theology at the Graduate Theologian Union this fall.

Published in paper, 256 pages, 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 8 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> at \$19.95, *From the Pews in the Back: Young Women and Catholicism* is available July 2009 directly from the Liturgical Press. Call: 1-800-858-5450; fax: 1-800-445-5899; or email: [sales@litpress.org](mailto:sales@litpress.org). A complete title listing is also available online: [www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org).

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