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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

In a church that often consigns them to the pews in the back, what place are young women claiming? This collection of twenty-nine essays approaches this question and others from a multitude of angles. These brief memoirs, together with the insights of editors Kate Dugan and Jennifer Owens, offer a glimpse into what it means to be young, Catholic, and female in today's church.

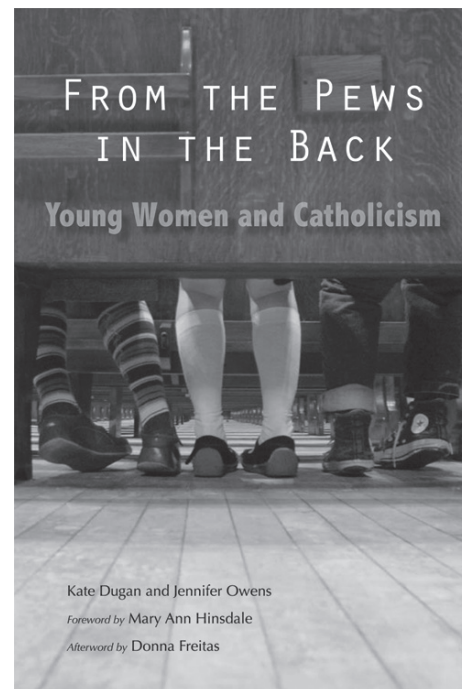
From the Pews in the Back is a new chapter in the dialogue about the role of women in the church. The voices of these women range from inspiring and energetic to challenging and wounded. Ultimately, though, these women are stubbornly hopeful. They ask hard questions of the institution and are not willing to take easy answers.

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"More testimony and *crie de coeur* than complaint, Kate Dugan's and Jen Owens's eloquent, often poetic collection of memoirs from young Catholic women is deeply rooted in their Catholic identity. These young women are willing to raise difficult questions, but always with an appreciation of a church that for all its failings has nourished their faith and remains for them a home. They represent a significant part of the Catholic community; their story deserves a hearing."

Thomas P. Rausch, SJ

Author of *Being Catholic in a Culture of Choice* (Liturgical Press)

"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. . . . Read these stories, be inspired to share your story and, together, we'll move the church one step closer to justice!"

Nicole Sotelo

Author of *Women Healing from Abuse: Meditations for Finding Peace* (Paulist Press)

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.

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