

The 2009 NCCW Book Club Selection



My Monastery is a Minivan

Be a part of the NCCW Book Club!

Schedule your organization's book club discussion and order your copy of the 2009 NCCW Book Club Selection—*My Monastery is a Minivan* by Denise Roy. Journey with Denise, a wife, mother of four, and graduate of the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, as she leads the way closer to God through the ruts, messes, and work-as-prayer of daily life.

What do people say about *Monastery*?

"Some people can hold up a lens to life that reveals the depth and beauty all around us. Denise Roy is that kind of person and spending time reading the stories that fill her book is like spending time with a wise friend who brightens your life."

— Tom McGrath, family life editor of *U.S. Catholic*, and author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids*

"Warm, witty, and inspiring, Denise Roy's practical treasure-house of wisdom will open readers to God's 'sneaky' love hiding in the ordinary routines of life."

— Bridget Mary Meehan, author of *Praying with the Women of the Bible*

How to Organize Your Book Club

- Order your copy of *My Monastery is a Minivan* from Loyola Press.
- Schedule your discussion meeting(s) before September 2009.
- Announce the book, ordering information, discussion date(s) and location(s) and invite all the women of your parish to attend (consider holding several book discussions in the homes of different people, to accommodate small groups; schedule some during the day and some in the evening).
- Recruit members to help lead the discussion.
- Offer hospitality before the discussion.
- Remind attendees that Denise Roy has been invited to speak at the 2009 NCCW Convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

Some questions to spark your discussion:

Denise speaks of the fact that, no matter what our vocation, we take all of life with us into that vocation (pp. 6-7). What is your vocation? Do you feel it incorporates both active and contemplative vocations? How do you try to combine them?

Denise quotes a favorite spiritual writer who advises that "Repetition and its good results make the very activities of our life into the path [to God]" (p.15). Does the repetitive nature of the Rosary give you comfort? What is it about the repetition that is helpful? Does this idea give you any insight into the benefits of doing laundry?

The "thin places" where everyday reality and the divine meet, can bring us grace-filled moments when we particularly experience God (pp. 52-53). Do you recall a time when you had a strong experience of God's presence while going about the ordinary business of life?

Denise meditates on the continuum of life—our connection to those who came before and who will come after us—when she is pregnant with her daughter (pp. 150-52). This connection is obvious in the vocation of parent. How do you think we are part of this continuum if we are a childless spouse, a single woman, a religious or consecrated woman? (see also "The Mother of Men," pp. 108-111).

What would be your advice to a busy woman who has difficulty finding time to pray? How do you put yourself into the presence of God in the midst of your activities?

Order your copy of *My Monastery is a Minivan* today.

\$14.95 plus shipping and handling. **Refer to Promotional Code 2789** and Loyola Press will contribute \$4.95 per book to NCCW for all purchases made through September 30, 2009.

To place orders by phone, call 800-621-1008, or order online at www.loyolabooks.com, or by mail to Loyola Press, 3441 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. ■