

Endorsements

Building on his previous work in sacramental theology and history, Joseph Martos now gives us the best text for teaching sacramental theology from a pastoral point of view. Martos does not follow the usual method of dealing with the seven sacraments of beginning with the New Testament and proceeding through the patristic and medieval times, through the Counter Reformation up to modern time, an approach not very attractive to present students. Rather, he reorganizes this material according to the social sciences: psychology, sociology, ritual studies, and history before dealing with the theology, morality, and spirituality of the sacraments. This should prove to be immensely more attractive to students today.

Rev. James L. Empereur, S.J.

Author of *The Liturgy That Does Justice* and *Prophetic Anointing*
St. Matthew Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas

Joseph Martos demonstrated many years ago that he was a very competent sacramental theologian. He demonstrates it here again, only this time in a creative, interactive way that yields a new and fruitful approach to Catholic sacraments. Readers will learn much from simply reading the book. They will learn even more by taking advantage of the interactive website Dr. Martos has set up to enable conversation with him on questions that arise from readers' reflection on what they read. I urge every reader to interactively use this website; they will not be disappointed.

Michael G. Lawler, Ph.D.

Author of *Symbol and Sacrament*, *A Theology of Ministry*, and *Marriage and Sacrament*
Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

This new edition of Joseph Martos' *The Sacraments* delightfully draws one in. The interactive text complete with online questions and discussion is not only a scholarly guide to the sacraments but a bold and challenging engagement with the experience of Christian ritual. A book to be savored by anyone interested in the role of ritual in human life, it is the best introduction to Catholic sacraments now available.

Gary Macy, Ph.D.

Author of *The Banquet's Wisdom* and *The Hidden History of Women's Ordination*;
co-author of *Christian Symbol and Ritual*
Santa Clara University, California

In this book Martos has done much more than simply revise and extend his previous works on sacraments. He has distilled the wisdom of the last century's work at reform and renewal in clear, non-technical language and he has laid a solid foundation for future development. The book provides a concise, insightful, and challenging overview of contemporary sacramental theology. Online interactive resources offer opportunity for experiential learning and personal transformation. This is the first book that I will recommend to anyone seeking deeper understanding and more effective practice of the Catholic sacraments.

Dr. James Dallen

Author of *Infant Baptism Today*, *The Reconciling Community*, and *Gathering for Eucharist*

Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington