

Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S.

Author of

Touching the Reign of God

Bringing theological reflection to daily life

Catholic writer, speaker, and
founding director of
Awakening Vocations



IN A TIME WHEN MANY DO NOT BELIEVE that God is personal, essayist *Mary Sharon Moore* shows us just how deeply personal and transformative a relationship with God who is love, mercy, humility, and forgiveness can be.

Through short reflections from the heart of a woman in whom Jesus has made a home, we are offered graced entry into Moore's inner life of reflective prayer and her outer life as a Christian in the world. Further, we are allowed to see for ourselves how the Holy Spirit connects the two. Neither is perfect, yet both are real, instructive, and humbly inspiring.

Like her life, Moore's book is saturated with Scripture. In her everyday encounters with the world and its denizens, the living Word of God challenges her, shapes her attitudes, insinuates himself into her thoughts, and judges her words, her actions—and even her inaction. As a result, we glimpse the possibility of life and prayer becoming one, and realize that not only can we touch the reign of God, but that God's reign reaches under the door of our hearts to touch us.

Touching the Reign of God reveals the startling practicality and ancient mystery of prayer lived; prayer taken seriously, not in the multiplication of words or measure of time, but through attentiveness to the Trinity with Whom we each long to be united. From the experience of her prayer-life—and life-prayer, Moore can confidently and audaciously proclaim, “No aspect of human life falls outside of God's blessing.”

Michael Fones, O.P., Co-director, Catherine of Siena Institute

To schedule a *Touching the Reign of God* workshop, contact:

Awakening Vocations

Toll-free: **1.888.687.2046** | 541.687.2046 | 4150 Oak Street | Eugene OR 97405
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Touching the Reign of God—the book

“Mary Sharon Moore’s
prayerful insights lift
the hem of the veil that
so often clouds our
understanding of God’s
truths. Her words heal,
inspire, and illuminate
our role in restoring the
divine on earth.”

Raylene Nickel,
author of
A Prayer for the Prairie

Often overlooked in the quest for mature Christian faith is the art and discipline of theological reflection, bringing one’s experience into conversation with one’s Christian heritage. *Touching the Reign of God* (Wipf & Stock, 2009; ISBN 13: 978-1-60608-197-6) introduces readers to this important spiritual process in a palatable and spiritually nourishing way.

Theological reflection is especially vital in those circumstances in which the agony of human limitation and the mystery of God intersect.

Touching the Reign of God, a collection of essays, invites the reader into that dialogue between experience, Scripture, and the wisdom of the Christian heritage. These essays, deep enough for substance and short enough for the busy life, model the work of theological reflection. Reflection questions at the end of each essay give readers a way to develop the practice of theological reflection in their own lives.

The outcome? People begin to embrace personal shortcomings, moral failures, and forsaken dreams as transformable, as healable, as touch points in the reign of God.

Essay topics range from reflections on thought-provoking Scripture passages, to working through the pain of selfishness and human limitation, to meditation on the practice of daily prayer. They are written for people who enjoy reading, and who seek meaning in the difficult circumstances of their life.

“Touching the Reign of God”—the workshop & practicum

This energizing one-day workshop, with 24-page workbook, equips participants to:

- Examine a multidimensional model of theological reflection;
- Identify past significant situations in their lives; and
- Apply the model to real-life circumstances for personal and ministry settings.

The day includes community building among participants; teaching; small group interaction; individual work; and whole group conversation.

Who benefits from “Touching the Reign of God”

- Spiritual directors and vocational guides;
- Directors of parish faith formation;
- RCIA teams and sponsors;
- People new to or returning to the practice of their faith;
- Those in the “listening” ministries (e.g., serving the homebound, the critically ill, inmates, those healing from abortion, divorce, life trauma);
- Men and women who desire to bring their life experience into authentic dialogue with the Church’s wisdom.

“Mary Sharon is
a gifted teacher,
with a deep respect
and love for
the Church and
her magisterium.”

Michael Sweeney, O.P.
President, Dominican School
of Philosophy & Theology, Berkeley

About the author . . .

MARY SHARON MOORE, a Catholic writer, retreat and workshop facilitator, and vocational and spiritual director, is fully dedicated to awakening others to God’s calling. Her Christian lifestyle frees her for a life of prayer, writing, teaching, and consulting nationwide. Her ministry flows from the belief that all Christian men and women are called to live, as Jesus did, generously, imaginatively, and lovingly for the sake of the world. *Touching the Reign of God* makes that calling easier for those ready to respond.

With a master’s degree in theological studies from Franciscan School of Theology (Berkeley) and spiritual direction formation (Shalom Prayer Center, Mount Angel OR), Mary Sharon brings vast experience in retreat and workshop facilitation. She is founding director of **AWAKENING VOCATIONS**, dedicated to making vocation discernment the norm, not the exception.