



## The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Inspiration of His Life, Thought, and Writing

By Daniel P. Horan

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Daniel Horan, O.F.M., popular author of *Dating God* and other books on Franciscan themes--and expert on the spirituality of Thomas Merton--masterfully presents the untold story of how the most popular saint in Christian history inspired the most popular spiritual writer of the twentieth century, and how together they can inspire a new generation of Christians.

Millions of Christians and non-Christians look to Thomas Merton for spiritual wisdom and guidance, but to whom did Merton look? In *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton*, Franciscan friar and author Daniel Horan shows how, both before and after he became a Trappist monk, Merton's life was shaped by his love for St. Francis and for the Franciscan spiritual and intellectual tradition. Given recent renewed interest in St. Francis, this timely resource is both informative and practical, revealing a previously hidden side of Merton that will inspire a new generation of Christians to live richer, deeper, and more justice-minded lives of faith.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This finely textured volume highlights Thomas Merton's intellectual and spiritual debt to the Franciscan tradition. Like the good householder of the Gospel, Daniel Horan draw forth old things and new" --

**Lawrence S. Cunningham**, University of Notre Dame

"Daniel Horan brings a fresh and welcome perspective to the life and legacy of the twentieth century's most celebrated monk" -- **Michael Downey**, Editor of *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*

"What a treasure we have in young and insightful Daniel Horan!" -- **Richard Rohr, O.F.M.**, Center for Action and Contemplation

"I was immersed again in two of the greatest influences on my own life and marveled at Horan's persuasive and comprehensive argument for why they are important to all of us today." --**Murray Bodo, O.F.M.**, Author of *Francis: The Journey and the Dream*

"Horan's book is a thorough and eloquent, yet personal and highly engaging, exploration of Merton's multilayered, multifaceted engagement with St. Francis and the Franciscan tradition." --**Paul M. Pearson**, Director of the Thomas Merton Center

"This is an accessible and absorbing exploration of a significant influence on Merton's life and thought, particularly welcome in this new 'Age of Francis.'" --**Patrick F. O'Connell**, Editor of *The Merton Seasonal*

"This new, uncovered information--that separates fact from fiction and profundity from caricature--confirms our suspicions of Francis's influence on Merton." --**Monica Weis, S.S.J.**, Author of *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton*

#### About the Author

Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M., is a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province (New York), a columnist for *America*, and the author of several books, including *The Last Words of Jesus*, *Dating God*, and *Francis of Assisi and the Future of Faith*. He is the author of many scholarly and popular articles and a frequent lecturer and retreat director around the United States, Canada, and Europe. Horan received a 2011 Catholic Press Association first-place award for his writing on spirituality. Horan studied at St. Bonaventure University

where he earned a bachelor degree in theology and journalism. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in 2005, made his first profession of vows in 2007, and was ordained a priest in 2012. During his studies as a friar, Horan earned a master's degree in systematic theology in 2010 and a master of divinity in 2012, both from the Washington Theological Union. He is currently completing a doctorate in systematic theology at Boston College. Horan taught in the department of religious studies at Siena College (2010-2011) and was a visiting professor in the department of theology at St. Bonaventure University (2012). He serves on the board of directors of the International Thomas Merton Society. Horan is a regular contributor to *Give Us This Day* and *The Huffington Post*. He is also the Catholic chaplain at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Follow him online at [danhoran.com](http://danhoran.com).

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