

***Reawakenings*, by Thomas Keating (1997) 131 pp.**

Many of us in the Contemplative Outreach community have read several little books by Fr. Thomas Keating. *Reawakenings*, which had escaped my attention until now, proves to be a refreshing way to revisit Keating's insights into the spiritual journey. You'll find it in the Scripture (S) section of the Lending Library bookshelves.

*Reawakenings* builds on an earlier collection of Keating's homilies, *Awakenings* (1990), and presents 33 homilies delivered over two years' time. The first few reflect on the symbolism of individual events in the life of Jesus: the multiplication of loaves and fishes, the storm on the lake, Jesus' question, "Who is my mother?" the woman taken in adultery, the woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee, Mary and Martha, and the healed leper. Other homilies focus on parables of the reign of God, the parable of the sower, and the parable of the widow and the unjust judge. The majority, however, meditate on the presence of Jesus in specific liturgies during the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Presentation of the Child Jesus, the feast of St. Joseph, Lent, the Paschal Vigil, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, the feast of St. John the Baptist, and the Transfiguration. In a sense, then, *Reawakenings* continues to explore the insights that Keating wrote about in his *The Mystery of Christ: the Liturgy as Spiritual Experience* (1994).

One example: When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the stormy water, they were terrified; as Mark says, "They had not understood the incident of the loaves. On the contrary, their hearts were hardened" (Mark 6:52). Fr. Thomas connects the story to what we ourselves experience: "This is a perfect description of our lack of perceiving God in everyday life. It is hard for us to find God in the middle of the stuff we call daily life--hard to find God in it, with it, through it, and beyond it..."

Drawing on personal memories, the thoughtful reader will savor each homily in turn and find deep nourishment to continue the spiritual journey.