

***Crisis of Faith* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Revised and Enlarged), by Thomas Keating (Petersham, Mass.: St. Bede's Publications, 1979), 127 pp.**

In this little book, Fr. Thomas uses incidents from the Gospels to demonstrate how an emotional crisis or an external difficulty can be an occasion for growing toward spiritual maturity. He says, "The trials of life, both within and without, are meant by God to mature our souls little by little until we are fully prepared for heaven." Thus, a crisis of faith is an event which forces us to let go of childish understandings, in order to find deeper ones.

For example, a royal official from Capernaum who pleaded with Jesus to go back with him to heal his son became desperate when Jesus would not go and merely said, "You go. Your son is healed" (John 4:46-54). The man had to return home by himself to discover that indeed, his son had been cured. His faith grew beyond his earlier conviction that Jesus could heal only when he was physically present.

Among other gospel figures, Father Thomas reflects deeply on the Canaanite woman, Martha and Mary, Mary Magdalene and the poor widow with her 'mite,' drawing valuable lessons from their relationships with Jesus. He devotes almost 20 pages to exploring Peter's life as a disciple and an apostle, and in the final chapter he interprets Lazarus as a symbol of Christian awakening.

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