The Way of Love



Readings for a Meaningful Life

Michael Leach, Doris Goodnough, Maria Angelini, editors



Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www. orbishooks.com

Copyright © 2022 by Orbis Books.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

All rights reserved.

Sources and acknowledgments on pages 195–202 represent an extension of this copyright page.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to:

Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Design: Roberta Savage

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Leach, Michael, editor. | Goodnough, Doris, editor. | Angelini, Maria, editor.

Title: The way of love: readings for a meaningful life / Michael Leach, Doris Goodnough, Maria Angelini.

Description: Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2022. | Series: The way | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2021050710 | ISBN 9781626984653 (trade paper-back)

Subjects: LCSH: Love—Religious aspects—Christianity—Literary collections. | Love—Religious aspects—Literary collections.

Classification: LCC BV4639 .W34 2022 | DDC 231/.6—dc23/eng/20211130

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021050710

Introduction page 1

PART ONE LOVE

1
Fall in Love
JOSEPH WHELAN
page 7

Love Is the Love of Being Loving MICHAEL LEACH page 8

3 All Things Work Together for Good to Those Who Love Being Loving THOMAS HORA page 12

4

Unconditional Love HAROLD W. BECKER page 14

Love Notes

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, Ram Dass, William Shakespeare, Donna Goddard page 15

5

When Love Beckons, Follow KAHLIL GIBRAN page 17

6

The Intuitive Knowledge of the Heart MARIANNE WILLIAMSON page 20

7
We Are Love with Skin On
ANNE LAMOTT
page 22

8

I Know Who She Is UNKNOWN page 25

Love Notes

FORREST GUMP (TOM HANKS),
DESMOND TUTU, DOROTHY DAY,
MELVIN UDALL (JACK NICHOLSON)
page 26

9

The Gift of Love
1 CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13
page 28

10

The Qualities of Love ANTHONY DE MELLO page 30

11

You Will Truly Serve Only What You Love STEPHEN COLBERT page 34

12

Justice Is What Love Looks Like In Public PHILIP WALSH page 37

Love and the Purpose of Life MOTHER TERESA page 40

Love Notes

ERICH FROMM, JORDAN PETERSON VICTOR FRANKL, MAYA ANGELOU page 43

The Daring Adventure of Love
ILIA DELIO
page 45

Love Is for Living CARLO CARRETTO page 47

16

Love Is Mysterious
JACK KORNFIELD
page 49

17

Love Sails Me around the House
THOMAS MERTON
page 51

Love Notes

James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Charles M. Schulz page 53

18

What Is This Thing Called Love?

MATTHEW FOX

page 55

19

This Is Love, Become Love, Be That One ECKHART TOLLE, MEISTER ECKHART, AND SHERI BESSI-ECKERT page 60

20

The Power of Love (or Imagine a World Where Love Is the Way) BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY page 62

PART Two LOVE OF GOD

May We Remember That God Is the Only Love Donna Goddard page 67

> 22 What Do I Love When I Love God St. Augustine page 68

> > 23 God's Signature ERNESTO CARDENAL page 69

Start with Loving a Stone RICHARD ROHR page 70

25

God Is the Ocean in Which We All Swim
PATRICK T. REARDON
page 72

26

Our Love Flows from the Love of God SØREN KIERKEGAARD page 76

Love Notes

I John 4:16, Acts 17:28, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 1:31 Fyodor Dostoevsky, Colossians 3:14 page 78

We Love Because He First Loved Us

ROBERT ELLSBERG

page 80

I Am Sustained by the Love of God A Course in Miracles page 82

> 29 God Is a Mother, Too VICKIE LEACH page 84 XIII

30

God Is My Everything THEA BOWMAN page 87

Love Notes

Meister Eckhart, 1 Samuel 16:7, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Óscar Romero Genesis 16:13 page 88

31

Quick, Open the Door, It's God Coming to Love Us! MADELEINE DELBRÊL page 90

32

I Love You for Sentimental Reasons

MARION AMBERG
page 93

33 God Brian Doyle page 97

34

God Owns a Convenience Store in British Columbia— Who Knew? GAE RUSK page 99

Love Notes

Sue Monk Kidd, Maya Angelou, Anne Lamott, Thomas Hora, Vincent de Paul page 103

35

The Parable of the Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-32
page 106

36

This Tremendous Lover Dom Eugene Boylan page 108

37

Don't Give Up on God, or Yourself
JOSEPHINE ROBERTSON
page 111

38

That We May Love as You Love!
UNKNOWN
page 114

39

"I Am Wherever There Is Love"

JOY SCRIVENER

page 115

Love Notes

Meister Eckhart, St. Augustine page 118

PART THREE LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

40

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25–37 page 121

41

Who Is My Neighbor?
FREDERIC BUECHNER
page 123

42

Love Your Neighbor Cynthia Bourgeault page 124

43

Love Whatever Arises

MATT KAHN

page 126

44

Love from Neighbors on the Margins
EDWINA GATELEY
page 128

45 When You Thought I Wasn't Looking Mary Rita Schilke Sill

page 130

46

Loving-Kindness:
Blessing Your Corner
of the World with Love
VICTOR PARACHIN
page 132

Love Notes

I John 4:7-8, Ilia Delio, C. S. Lewis, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Nicolas Chamfort page 136

47
Love Your Enemies
MATTHEW AND LUKE
page 138

48

We Love Each Other That's Enough Ram Dass and Paul Gorman page 140

49

Save Your Best for Someone Else
Donna Ashworth
page 143

50
Love at Its Best
JOHN LEWIS
page 145

Love Notes

Glenn Beck, Acts 4:32–35, Michael Leach page 146

> 51 Why Are You Here? VINCENT P. COLE page 148

52 Stand Up for the Stupid and Crazy WALT WHITMAN page 149

Love Deeply
Henri J. M. Nouwen
page 150

Love Notes

Dorothy Day, Donna Goddard, Søren Kierkegaard, Mr. Rogers page 152

54

A Piece of Light
JOYCE RUPP
page 154

55

Tend to What Repulses You
PAULINE HOVEY
page 156

56

Don't Look Away Brené Brown page 161

57 Having Lunch with God JOSEPH HEALEY page 162

58

Bishop Morrie Says It's Not about the Soup MICHAEL LEACH page 164

59

It All Tastes Like Love Fran Rossi Szpylczyn page 169

60

A Marriage, an Elegy Wendell Berry page 173

Love Notes

Henri J. M. Nouwen, Gerald May L. R. Knost, Robin Williams page 174

61
Loving the Christ in Others
THOMAS MERTON
page 176

Christ, Let Me See You in Others

David Adam

page 178

63

Christ and Cerebral Palsy MICHAEL LEACH page 179

Love Notes

Mother Teresa, 1 Corinthians 12:12 1 Corinthians 12:26, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Robert Adams page 183

64

Christ in the Subway
CARYLL HOUSELANDER
page 185

65

God's Disguise Mother Teresa page 187

66

Remember, There Is the Face of Christ ÓSCAR ROMERO page 188

67 Christ in the Poor JIM FOREST page 189

68

We're All God's Children
Dennis Moorman
page 190

Love Notes

A Course in Miracles, John 14:20, Rumi page 192

Sources and Acknowledgments page 195

Contributors page 203