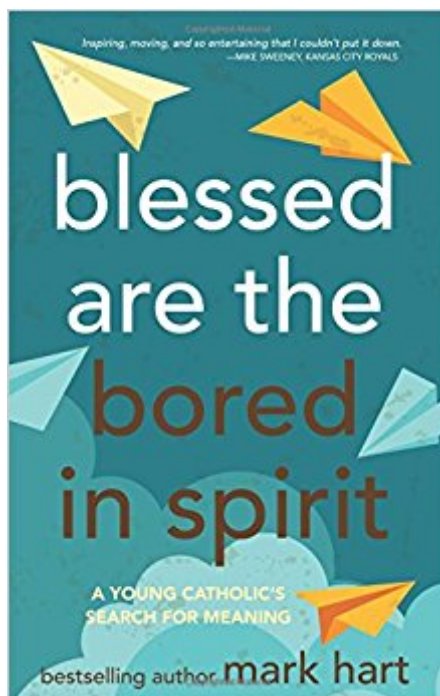


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# Blessed Are The Bored In Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search For Meaning



## Synopsis

My image of God the Father, enthroned in heaven in flowing white robes and Birkenstock sandals, was overshadowed by my certainty that he didn't want me to have any fun. God was all about rules.

from Chapter Five Too many young Catholics experience their faith as Mark Hart did: They rarely miss Mass even if they don't understand it; they have a Bible even if they never read it; they go to confession even if they aren't particularly repentant. Is that your experience of Catholicism? Is yours a faith of Thou Shalt Nots? If so, forget about a dreary life of mindless obedience to rules you don't understand. It's time to enter into the transforming light of your Creator who invites you to live from the still center of his undying love. The author's humorous and hard-hitting reflections drive home the point that God isn't calling the reader to be a good person; someone who merely obeys the rules; but a new person in Jesus Christ.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

MARK HART leads conferences, retreats and missions for teens and adults around the world. He is vice president of Life Teen International, a Catholic youth ministry, and is the author of *Ask the Bible Geek*: Answers to Questions from Catholic Teens (Servant). Mark and his wife Melanie have two daughters and live in Phoenix, Arizona.

I bought this for my teenage niece and wanted to read it before I gave it to her. I'm so glad I did. It is wonderfully written and a super fast read. I love that the author is a cradle-Catholic because it

makes his perspective and experience speak even more to those in that category who maybe feel like they're just going through the motions. I'm even considering buying a bunch of copies to hand out to my fellow cradle-Catholic friends who may feel inspired by it as well. Glad to add this to my home library!

I was a Confirmation sponser for my nephew in 2007. One of the requirements was that we meet together once a month for a number of months. While his CCD class provided some outlines for the meetings, there really wasn't enough material for an hour of talk, especially between guys who don't want to particularly "share". I ordered this book from , and we used a chapter or two each month as the primary basis for the meetings. There is plenty of material that speaks to way youth and adults live their life, many scriptural references, and mention of other similar books that you can check into later. I don't think that there is enough theology in this book to make it a primary source for a year of CCD study, but it could be used as I described for Confirmation meetings or in a class as part of a series of books to be studied, if it is backed up with the Catechism of the Catholic Church or the Bible. It is an exhortation for Catholics young and old to live the Christian life. One last comment. If the emphasis of Confirmation - and perhaps even earlier years of religion classes - would be on living the Christian life ( as described in this book ) and on knowledge of the faith, and not on so much on the touchy-feely stuff that seems to be very present, maybe there would be more young adults knowing and living their faith. Perhaps there would be fewer young Catholics coasting through the years of religion classes - ending in Confirmation - without really learning anything substantial (as the author described of himself).

This is the best Catholic book I have read in some time. It kept my interest and I completely read it on 2 two hour plane flights while highlighting text. I think every Catholic adult should read this book. I teach Religious Education and this book gave a renewed spirit to teach. There are churches popping up everywhere because people want to be entertained. The Mass does not entertain so people start to lose interest but this book reminds us why we are truly going to Church (it has nothing to do with the priest leading the Mass) on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. And let's remember it is a commandment and not a suggestion. I highly recommend this book.

any book, cd etc that has Mark Hart in it is phenomenal and inspirational!!! He make learning the Catholic fun, exciting and interesting. I use this as a learning tool for my Confirmation class made up of Juniors in HS. Love this CD!

Enjoy the humorous ride through Mark's childhood stories, and get hit hard with the reality of the Gospel truth! As a 20 something's youth minister I found myself relating to this book not only for myself but also the cradle Catholic teens to whom I minister. I've read and reread this book to the point where the pages are falling out. Mark Hart's stories make the faith relatable, and come alive in a new light. I've used analogies, anecdotes, and quotes in dozens of talks. I often give this as a "thank you" gift to my adult volunteers who work with teens, as well as teens going off to college.

We are currently using this book as part of the curriculum for a Leadership in Ministry high school class. It's used as an introductory text so that the students can begin to evaluate their own faith lives in a format that's fun and non-judgemental. We jump off at Chapter 3 and use the DVD "Mass Appeal" to take a more in-depth look at the mass. My students (and their parents) have absolutely loved this book - it's a very easy read!

I highly recommend this book that will help you in your transformation and conversion to God as you reflect on your experiences of God's presence in your life. It's an easy read.

I tore through Mark Hart's book in about a day or two (I know the book isn't that long but I am a slow reader and thus quite an accomplishment). I couldn't put it down because of his honesty and getting real about his own experience in the Catholic church. He tells it like it is but he also challenges the believer to take a deeper look at the faith that maybe we didn't learn and understand from our parents, CCD teachers, priests, nuns, etc. I am a coordinator of Youth Ministry at a Catholic parish and I have handed out copies to teens and adults. Believers of any age can get a lot out of Mark's honesty and deep love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

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