

Book takes earthy approach to knowing God

In Pursuit of the Great White Rabbit, by Edward Hays; Forest of Peace Books, Inc. 1990; 132 pages; \$8.95

By Father John J. Philipps
Guest contributor

"Before you begin this book," Edward Hays writes in his preface to *In Pursuit of the Great White Rabbit*, "I would like to take a few minutes to visit with you." His opener sets the tone for the 12 chatty, down-to-earth, unnumbered chapters to follow.

Noted storyteller, artist (he did the cover art and illustrations himself) and

internationally known lecturer, Father Hays sets out to debunk a common belief that only a rare handful of people, called mystics, can directly experience God.

The priest helps his readers to see, taste, feel and touch God in the ordinary experiences of daily life through legends, anecdotes, and his own perceptive reflections.

Seeing Earth as a webbed organism, Hays believes that in order to become more sensitive to "the web" and its interwoven connections, we would do well to return to a more direct contact

with the Earth and with earthy things.

Those of us who live in the industrial world are likely to have only a marginal contact with the mystery of the web. "When we reach out to touch, in various ways, the thick outer shell of the web," he argues, "we begin to realize that at its heart in the Heart of all life, the Source of all creation."

The short work offers something for everybody. Married couples, for instance, will benefit from his chapter "The Fine Wine of Commitment." (So will marriage prep teams and wedding homilists.) And all who have survived

the upstate non-summer of 1992 will need "Seeing God in the Weather Report."

Two attractively titled chapters — "The Grace of Disgrace" and "Holy Hypocrisy" (oxymorons?) — reveal Edward Hays' fresh, engaging approach to modern spirituality, as do his other works, especially *Prayers for the Domestic Church* and *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*.

Edward Hays offers a homey, earthy, even childlike approach to knowing God. You might subtitle his work "incarnational spirituality made easy."



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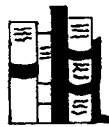
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