

# IN REVIEW

## Cahill takes serious look at Jesus, his times

*Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus (Hinges of History, Vol. 3), by Thomas Cahill. Nan A. Talese (Doubleday); 353 pp., \$24.95*

Reviewed by Father Daniel P. Tormey  
Guest contributor

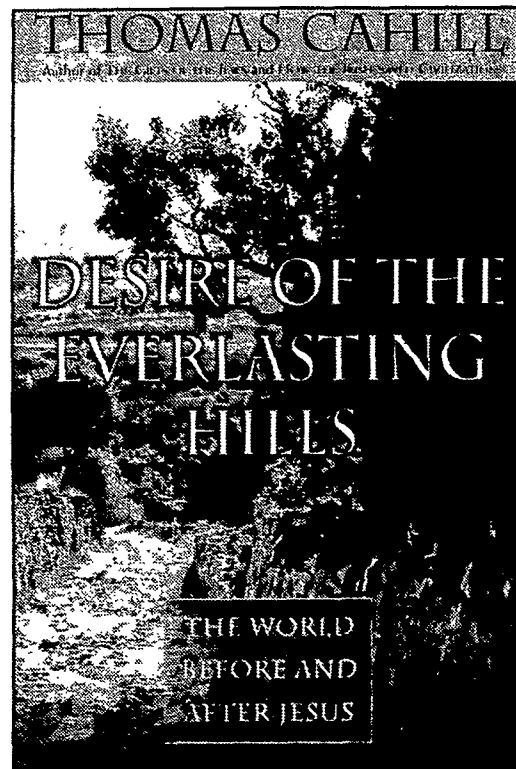
When a small volume entitled *How the Irish Saved Civilization* first appeared, some readers took it as an Irish joke spun in a Dublin pub. But when it was identified as the first volume of a seven-volume series called *The Hinges of History*, critics approached it more seriously. It was followed by volume two: *The Gifts of the Jews*. Subsequently the historical works of Thomas Cahill were appreciated and happily anticipated. The third volume from Doubleday/Random House is entitled *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*.

Cahill has used scholarship and style, as well as charm and wit to explore the cultural impact of the Jewish and Irish people on our history and our civilization. In this newest work he focuses on an individual, Jesus of Nazareth, a small town Jew, born 2,000 years ago in occupied Palestine, and raises the question: Did Jesus make a difference in society,

both ancient and modern? The

Desire of the everlasting hills is the Promised One of the prophets as seen through the eyes of his followers and his evangelists. This hinge of history is the birth of Christianity and the new Way that impacted the Western world.

Cahill might have entangled himself in the difficult quest for a biography of the historical Jesus. Modern biblical scholars are wary of that in the light of present day historical methods. But this is less a book of exegesis and more a commentary on the life and times of the people who knew Jesus. What biblical criticism is used might best be described as "social-sci-



tific criticism." And there is a feminist critique as well.

Not that this book is all about feminism (or womanism), but as he did in the earlier volumes on Ireland and Israel, Cahill raises up in a new and engaging light the role of women in the ancient world and the transforming, energizing gift they are to our long cultural history. The adulterous woman about to be stoned becomes the focus of Jesus' simple teaching on forgiveness, and of Cahill's longer discussion of capital punishment within the context of Jesus' bloody and torturous crucifixion.

## 'Weaver of words' delves into today's church

*Long Have I Loved You. A Theologian Reflects on His Church, by Walter J. Burghardt, SJ. Orbis. (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2000). 431 pp., \$40 (paperback, \$20).*

Reviewed by Father John J. Philipps  
Guest contributor

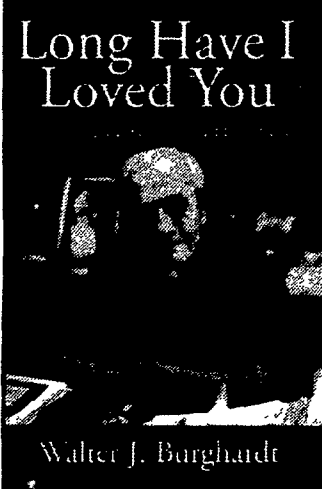
Future generations searching for a capsule of what the Catholic Church was thinking, how it struggled, what it proclaimed in the second millennium's last half century need look no further than this memoir of the "Preacher of the Just Word," 86-year-old Walter Burghardt, SJ.

Chapter titles such as "From Jesus to Vatican II" (ordained priesthood), "From Eve to Mary" (women in the church), "From the Apostle Paul to John Paul II" (crisis in the church), "From Hippocrates to Kevorkian" (Catholicism and the medical profession), "From Manresa to El Salvador" (Jesuit spirituality) tease the

reader into probing further what Catholics have been thinking, saying and doing during Burghardt's long career as seminary professor, writer, editor, renowned homilist, passionate social activist, priest, Jesuit.

If "name-dropping" is to be disdained, Burghardt can be easily forgiven. His personal insights of such luminaries as John Courtney Murray, "Gus" Weigel, John Tracy Ellis, Theodore Hesburgh, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Suenens, Karl Rahner, Yves Congar — many personal friends — testify to the greatness of the age, both pre- and post-Vatican II.

"That wonderful weaver of words," as one reviewer describes him, Walter Burghardt writes as he preaches — with




warmth, wit and elegance.

Its 50 pages of footnotes and references and a comprehensive list of his many other publications make the book a valuable asset to anyone serious about understanding the church of our times.

Professor Burghardt's specific discipline in theology is patristics, that branch dealing with the thought and culture of "the Fathers" of the church from its beginning up to the sixth or seventh century. If our future generations of inquirers seek to discover "the Fathers" of the church (and mothers!) at the close of the 20th century, the name of Walter Burghardt may well occur among them.

Father Philipps is a retired priest of the Diocese of Rochester.



# cemeteries

of the Rochester Catholic Diocese

<p><b>1. Calvary Cemetery</b> Clark Street Parish Cemetery of St. Mary's, Canandaigua 716-394-1220</p> <p><b>2. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery &amp; Mausoleum</b> 2461 Lake Avenue Rochester, NY 14612 716-458-4110</p> <p><b>3. Mount Olivet</b> East Canal Road Office 152 Main Street Brockport, NY 14420 716-637-4500</p>	<p><b>4. St. Bridget's</b> 15 Church Street East Bloomfield, NY 14443 716-657-7626</p> <p><b>5. St. James</b> 503 Clark St Waverly, NY 14892 607-565-2014</p> <p><b>6. St. Joseph's Regional Cemetery</b> 6020 Lake Ave. Ext. Auburn, NY 13021 315-252-5197</p>	<p><b>7. St. Mary's</b> Crosset Road Office: 13 North St. Geneseo, NY 14454 716-243-1100</p> <p><b>8. St. Mary Our Mother</b> 816 West Broad Street Horseheads, NY 14845 607-739-3817</p> <p><b>9. St. Patrick's</b> Murray Street Office: 46 Stanley Street Mt. Morris, NY 14510 716-658-2110</p>	<p><b>10. St. Patrick's</b> 300 Main St. Owego, NY 13827 607-687-1068</p> <p><b>11. Ss. Peter &amp; Paul</b> 623 Franklin St. Elmira, NY 14901 607-732-6431</p> <p><b>12. St. Rose</b> 1985 Lake Avenue Lima, NY 14485 716-624-1005</p>
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**THE CEMETERIES LISTED PAID A NOMINAL FEE TO BE LISTED ON THIS PAGE. A NUMBER OF OTHER CATHOLIC CEMETERIES CHOSE NOT TO BE LISTED, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY ARE NO LONGER SELLING BURIAL PLOTS.**

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