New books tell tales of faith

Author Harriet Schwartz rightly calls her new book, Spirituality 101: The Indispensable Guide to Keeping — or Finding — Your Spiritual Life on Campus, a conversation. Faith explorers tell their stories in their own words. We hear from young college students seeking "the other," the God who is beyond them, and beyond their religion or faith experience.

The book also offers guidelines on college spiritual questions: what students should know about cultic behavior, dating someone of another faith, dealing with bigotry toward your faith, who to ask for guidance, how to find a faith community, how to have a social life without compromising your beliefs, dining halls and dietary laws, how to have a productive mentoring relationship, how to start a campus group, and more.

Schwartz's stories of campus life carry this message: Challenge your faith; seek what others believe; form your own critical faith tradition. Among the stories are: a young Jewish woman who finds new expressions in her college Shabbat community, a Hindu student who learns about her own tradition as a student at a Catholic college, a Lutheran at a Catholic university who finds that

Book Review

Spirituality 101: The Indispensable Guide to Keeping — or Finding — Your Spiritual Life on Campus

By Harriet L. Schwartz. Skylight Paths (Woodstock, Vt., 2004). 254 pp., \$16.99.

The Goodness Within: Reaching Out to Troubled Teens with Love and Compassion

By Mark Redmond.
Paulist Press (New York, 2004).
191 pp., \$17.95.

Reviewed by Mike Hayes/CNS

until we struggle in faith, faith cannot be owned.

Too often we worry about college students falling away from their faith. We see the folly of this insecurity when we read Schwartz's stories of these spiritual searchers.

The Goodness Within by Mark Redmond is a primer on reaching out to troubled teens, lessons learned from a long career working with this difficult group. Redmond's horror stories of out-of-control teens in group homes and shelters smack the reader upside the head with the challenges those who work with them must face. His message: love, understanding and respect for troubled teens will go further than disdain.

Redmond's book is frightening, funny and moving. There are stories of drug addiction and death, including the murder of a colleague. When he writes of the staff taking the teens on a bike race and ski trip it is not just a story of "rah-rah, we done good" but an account of adults providing joy for those in pain and sorrow most of the time.

The Goodness Within simply tells the truth: This is tough work and it doesn't always have a happy ending. With a no-nonsense style that describes rather than preaches, Redmond writes gripping tales that focus on what's important. Money and rank mean little; but helping a boy who lost his mother and is struggling to learn to read — that's the Gospel talking.

Hayes is the operations and marketing director of *BustedHalo.com*, the Paulist Fathers' young-adult Internetoutreach.

BEST SELLERS

Here is the Catholic Book Publishers Association's best-sellers list for August.

HARDCOVER

- 1. The Rhythm of Life. Matthew Kelly
- 2. Hail, Holy Queen. Scott Hahn 3. Lord, Have Mercy. Scott
- Hahn

PAPERBACK

- 1. Catechism of the Catholic Church. ♥
- 2. Return of the Prodigal Son. Henri J.M. Nouwen
- 3. In the Name of Jesus. Henri J.M. Nouwen

CHILDREN/YOUTHS

- 1. Called to His Supper. Jeannine Timko Leichner
- 2. Making Things Right. Jeannine Timko Leichner
- 3. Tear Soup. Schwiebert & DeKlyen

SPANISH LANGUAGE

- 1. Juntos Para Toda la Vida. Joseph M. Champlin
- 2. Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica
- 3. Manual Para el Catolico de Hoy. A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

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