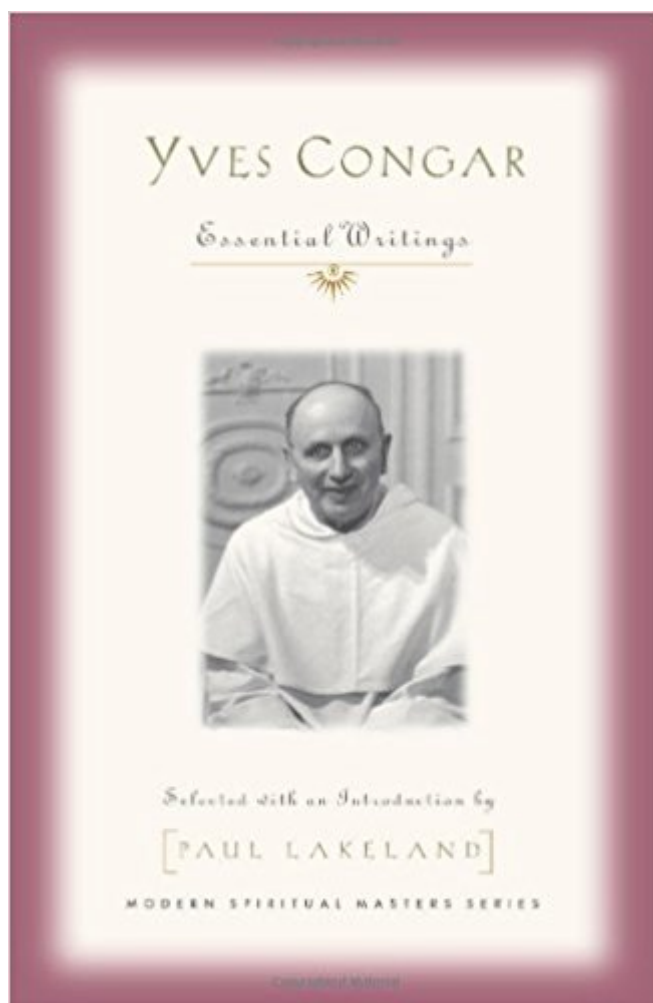


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Yves Congar: Essential Writings (Modern Spiritual Masters)



Synopsis

Yves Congar (1904-1995), a French Dominican theologian, was a prophet in the church of the mid-20th century, persecuted in the 1950s only to become perhaps the single most formative influence on Vatican II. This volume provides real insight and fresh hope for those concerned to breathe new life into the church of the 21st century.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Orbis Books (February 28, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570757879

ISBN-13: 978-1570757877

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #773,102 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Canon Law](#) #6758 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism](#) #12562 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects](#)

Customer Reviews

From James Crosson (real name) Reading some of the most famous writings of Yves Congar makes one wish he were alive today! It seems that Rome once had the same feeling. In 1960 the papal office abruptly ended the great theologian's official exile and asked him to help prepare for the Second Vatican Council. Help he did. According to Paul Lakeland, the book's editor and narrator, the French Dominican's "stamp" on the Council is seen most clearly in *Lumen gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, that gave birth to the historic self-image of the church as "the people of God." But Congar's essential writings, though written decades ago, still resonate today, especially his hope and confidence in the ordinary Catholic people to proclaim Jesus in the secular world. Were he alive today, it is doubtful he would tolerate a clergy-versus-laity debate, or any new round of clericalism. Instead, he hoped for a relationship of priest and people as "clergy-laity pair," a relationship that might be described as "a kind of marriage" between the bishop and people, and between a pastor and his people. Some Catholics might argue that a close working relationship of bishop and people could diminish episcopal authority, but when a monumental theologian such as

Congar writes about it, the idea seems to be worth a try. Lakeland, whose narrative is always on the money, presents Congar's writings on ecumenism, and it is in this chapter that we begin to ask if the church (priest and people) have been faithful to Jesus' prayer to God the Father in John's Gospel, "so that they may be one as we are one" (John 17). The American church has worked closely with other Christian churches to discover agreements on many issues, and this work has produced some key successes. Yet the decades pass and the Christian churches are still separated. This is a book well worth reading by every Catholic. Congar is a magnificent writer, offering a reader ease of access to his theology and ideas. The book is not just good reading, it is great teaching! Jim Crosson

good presentation of very important theologian. not an easy read. but if you put in the effort you will profit.

I love the work of Yves Congar but not the commentary by the editor/compiler. Go buy Congar's books, it is a better use of your money.

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