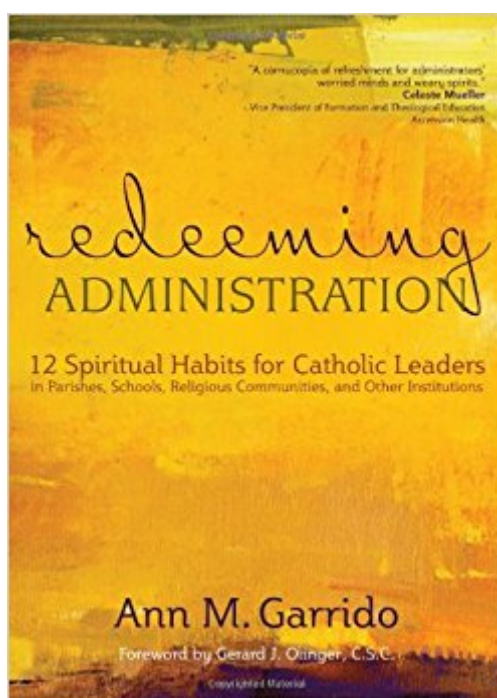


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Redeeming Administration: 12 Spiritual Habits For Catholic Leaders In Parishes, Schools, Religious Communities, And Other Institutions



Synopsis

Ann Garrido's 2009 article in *America* magazine on the spirituality of administration in Catholic settings created a wave of demand in this successful academic administrator's already full speaking schedule. Now she brings together twelve spiritual habits--each illuminated by the story of a Catholic saint--that help administrators find spiritual meaning in their work. Ann Garrido admits that she sometimes finds administration draining, even boring, as it fractures her days into "tiny shards of time" that make it impossible to focus on "the big ideas." And yet Garrido has found spiritual gifts in her many years as a theologian, parish minister, and administrator in higher education. In *Redeeming Administration*, she reveals those gifts by examining twelve spiritual habits--presenting a saint who embodies each habit--and showing readers how to experience their administrative work as a crucial ministry of the Church.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"You can't just read it once. Its truths grab hold of your being, force you to wrestle with reality, and only loosen their grasp on your soul when you begin to embrace the spiritual gifts of administration. Challenging and comforting, this book made me think, forced me to be honest and enticed me into dialogue with others." --Leland Nagel, Executive Director, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership
"I started reading and almost couldn't stop! Of course, true to what Ann Garrido points out, this book wasn't on my to-do list for today. Administration often feels like a necessary evil, keeping us from things we'd rather be doing. But Garrido revisions it for us into a necessary grace

with blessed companions, delightful reflections, and spirit-sustaining prayers for the journey." --Sr. Diane Koorie, S.S.M, Director, Office of Pastoral Ministry, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City"A cornucopia of refreshment for administrators' worried minds and weary spirits. Offering keen insights, holy companions, stories and prayers, Redeeming Administration reclaims our work as vocation and rekindles our hearts to serve with joy!" --Celeste Mueller, Vice President, Formation and Theological Education, Ascension Health"I have found here a new required text! I deeply appreciate Garrido's earthy, humorous, and reflective style. She understands the challenges and gifts of administration, yet invites me to reflect differently about mundane tasks. For the first time, I can actually see my life in administration as the fruitful living out of a vocation of discipleship. I find her thinking, her turns of phrase, her deep scripture, and tradition-based reflections life changing." --Sharon Callahan, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Life, School of Theology and Ministry Seattle University"Our Catholic institutions are signs of Christ's saving mission. But they can only realize this sacramentality if they have administrators who see their work as holy. Garrido brings her considerable theological insight to bear on the administrator's vocation. She teaches us how to redeem our ministry and how to make even our most mundane work redemptive." --Rev. Charles E. Bouchard, O.P., Prior Provincial, Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great"Garrido's book is a welcome resource for all those in ministry who find themselves thrust into administration. She shows how the work need not be draining but instead can become 'A spiritual pathway by which good people can become better.' A delightful read for any Catholic leader!" --Brian Schmisek, Institute for Pastoral Studies Director, Loyola University Chicago"This little book is a great pocket guide to nudge pastoral leaders and other Catholic administrators toward in-depth critical reflection, discernment, and leadership praxis that will make a profound difference in our twenty-first century Church." --Sr. Angela Ann Zuchowski, M.H.S.H., Institute for Pastoral Initiatives Director, University of Dayton"A great help for those who tackle the great and small tasks of building God's reign through the work of administration. Garrido masterfully unites the experience of talented administrators with the wisdom and tradition of the Church to unveil the presence of God. She offers wonderful advice and tells the stories of exemplary saint-companions with humor and honesty. I highly recommend this book to anyone who works in administration in the Church!" --Kristen Hempstead McGann, Associate Director, Office for Catechesis and Youth Ministry, Archdiocese of Chicago

Ann M. Garrido is associate professor of homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. While her first passion is teaching, for more than fifteen years she has found herself

increasingly drawn to administrative roles. Garrido has served as senior editor of *Human Development Magazine* and is the author of six books, including *Redeeming Conflict* and the award-winning *Redeeming Administration*. She travels nationally and internationally doing conflict education and mediation work in both the business and church worlds. Garrido lives in Florida.

This book addresses a topic most would consider not to be worthwhile, yet there must be a huge number of people around the world who would find this book relevant to their professional lives - there are so many administrators in this world! I enjoyed the conceptual underpinnings of this book, and because the chapters are independent of each other, it's possible to just read a chapter at random and read others at leisure. This is very readable, honest in presenting the author's reflections on both the upside and downside of being an administrator - a useful book to reframe one's perspective on a calling that can often be undervalued.

I liked the breadth of the topics covered by Ann. Her insights and reflections are especially valuable because she has lived what she writes about. The way she brings the perspective of a mature faith to the challenges of administrative roles is something I very much appreciated about this book. At times it is encouraging and consoling. At other times it challenges one to growth. A rich source of reflection and a valuable resource for the ongoing formation of any person looking to integrate their faith into a management or leadership role.

I found the elements used in the book: generativity, humility, etc. dead on as what we need to develop as leaders in the Church. Her use of stories of the saints enhances the illustrative content of each chapter. Finally, the reflection/discussion questions at the end of each chapter help to summarize the content of the chapter and invite further reflection and discussion. I plan to use this book with my administrators.

I was privileged to hear the author present at a recent presidents' conference for CEOs of seminaries in the Association of Theological Schools. I knew that her book had to be added to my reading list. I was not disappointed. God even sanctifies the interruptions! Stirring. Encouraging.

Every page of Ann Garrido's books inspired and, more importantly, re-directed some of my conversations with friends, and some-not-so-friendly, in ways that restored calmness and perceived

insults. I treasure both books

A wonderfully written and inspiring read. Garrido gives so much to "chew on" and "digest" while inspiring one to re-evaluate his/her call in a redeeming vocation. She leads you to think about things you may never have thought about. Redeeming Administration is a gem.

Ms Garrido's book is inspirational for any Catholic manager who wishes to live their faith. Each chapter ends with the story of a Saint who demonstrates the core learning from the chapter. The book is well constructed and filled with stories from Ms Garrido's life. I especially want to thank her for the story of her son's first day at pre-school. You can learn a lot from a preschooler!

We have asked Ann to be our keynote at our annual board/ leadership retreat based on what she has presented in this book . She brings together basic talents needed to lead ministry for this time while providing humor and sharing examples from her own journey in leadership. New insights and reflection points offer process to build and enhance leaders in their growth.

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