

Jewish-Christian Relations

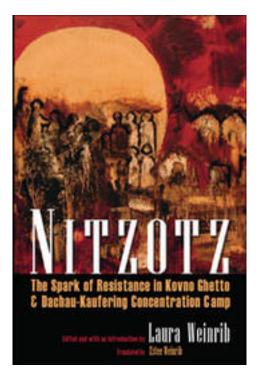


Insights and Issues in the ongoing Jewish-Christian Dialogue

Boys, Mary C.. Has God Only One Blessing?

| Sherman, Franklin

Boys, Mary C.. Has God Only One Blessing? Judaism as a Source of Christian Self-Understanding.



Book Review

Has God Only One Blessing? Judaism as a Source of Christian Self-Understanding

by <u>Mary C. Boys</u>. Paulist Press, New York and Mahwah, NJ, 2000 393 pp., \$29.95, paper

In this magisterial book, Mary Boys distills the fruits of a generation of Christian

biblical, liturgical, and systematic theology, blends in the sharp piquancy of

Jewish-Christian dialogue, and produces a vintage worthy to savor as we welcome the new

millennium....Boys' achievement is as remarkable as it is timely.

Eugene J. Fisher Associate Director, Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, National Conference of Catholic Bishops Preface Introduction

PART I: PARABLES

1. Sion"s Story

- 2. Tales of Two Texts
- 3. Synagoga and Ecclesia

PART II: PARABLES IN CONTEXT

4. Jews and Christians in Historical Perspective5. A Revised Story for the Church: Supersessionism Replaced

PART III: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS IN CONTEXT

- 6. The Complex World of First-Century Judaism
 - 7. Jesus" World: "A Composition of Place"
 - 8. "Jesus" Renewal Movement" Becomes "Christianity"
 - 9. The Partings: Christianity's Prolonged and Polemical Break with Judaism
 - 10. The Emergence of a Distinctive Christian Theology

PART IV: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS IN THE CHURCH"S LIFE

- 11. A New Lens on Scripture
- 12. The Liturgy: A Call to Conversion
- 13. The Cross as a Christian Symbol

PART V: ECCLESIA CHANGING

14. Ecclesia"s New Posture: The Transformation in Church Teaching15. Re-educating Ecclesia

Appendix – God"s Mercy Endures Forever: Guidelines on the Presentation of Jews

and Judaism in Catholic Preaching

Notes Bibliography

In her new book, Has God Only One Blessing?, Mary Boys presents an overview of the

church's troubled relations to and distorted image of the Jews and Judaism over the

centuries, together with proposals for a theological and practical reconstruction of the

relationship. "The fruit of years of personal experience, dialogue, and research, this

is a ground-breaking work in every way," says Elizabeth Johnson, C.S.J., Distinguished

Professor of Theology at Fordham University. "With a wealth of examples and argument,

it challenges the inherited idea that Christianity has fulfilled or superseded Judaism as

God's favored religion, and crafts an alternative vision of the church and synagogue as

partners rather than rivals. Preachers, educators, pastoral ministers, and thoughtful

persons of all stripes will be stunned by this mirror held up to their assumptions and moved

to translate insight into action."

Rabbi A. James Rudin, Senior Interreligious Advisor for the American Jewish Committee

(New York), has described Has God Only One Blessing? as "one of the most

important books I have ever read" (see full text of his review),

and Rabbi Michael Signer, Abrams Professor in the Department of Theology of Notre Dame

University, has stated: "In these pages Jews can discern the true fruits of more than

twenty years that Mary Boys has spent in dialogue with them."

Sister Mary C. Boys, S.N.J.M., is the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology

at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and is the author of three previous books. Has

God Only One Blessing? includes 64 pages of notes and a 25-page bibliography, and as an

appendix, the full text of the 1988 publication of the National Conference of Catholic

Bishops, "God"s Mercy Endures Forever: Notes on the Presentation of Jews and Judaism

in Catholic Preaching."

Franklin Sherman

Introduction to the book, including a definition of key terms.