



STARRED REVIEW

The Word in Their Voices: A Catholic Pilgrim's Journey through Scripture and Poetry

Augustine Jeyaraj

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Blending poetry, thoughtful annotation, biblical reflection, and theological insight, Augustine Jeyaraj's *The Word in Their Voices* is a beautifully crafted and spiritually resonant work: intimate, imaginative, and deeply rooted in Catholic tradition.

The author structures the book around poetic monologues voiced by figures such as Mary, Judas, St. Stephen, and St. Paul, as well as Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV. These poems are paired with thoughtful introductions and detailed annotations, forming what the author calls *Lectio Poetica*: a prayerful, imaginative way of entering Scripture. This blended method encourages slow, reflective reading and invites the reader to linger with each voice. It's a unique approach that works remarkably well, drawing readers into both the emotional landscape of each figure and the theological context that shapes their stories.

The standout section is the reflection on *Ordo Amoris* in the voice of St. Augustine. Here, the author's understanding of Augustinian thought shines. The exploration of rightly ordered love, how the human heart drifts, how grace restores, and how peace is found in returning to God, is both intellectually compelling and spiritually moving.

Equally strong are the Good Friday and Easter meditations. The poem voiced by the Cross itself is striking, as is the reflection on Mary inspired by Michelangelo's Pietà. The accompanying Bible study offers a clear, thoughtful guide through salvation history, suitable for personal prayer or group study.

Throughout the book, Jeyaraj's emphasis on understanding Scripture through its Hebrew roots adds depth and accessibility. His tone is pastoral, humble, and encouraging—never lecturing, always inviting.

This is a highly recommended book for Catholic readers, lay leaders, prayer groups, and anyone seeking to enrich their engagement with Scripture. Warm, intelligent, and grounded in tradition, *The Word in Their Voices* is a genuinely inspiring contribution to contemporary Catholic poetry, imagination, and spirituality.

Also available in hardcover and ebook.