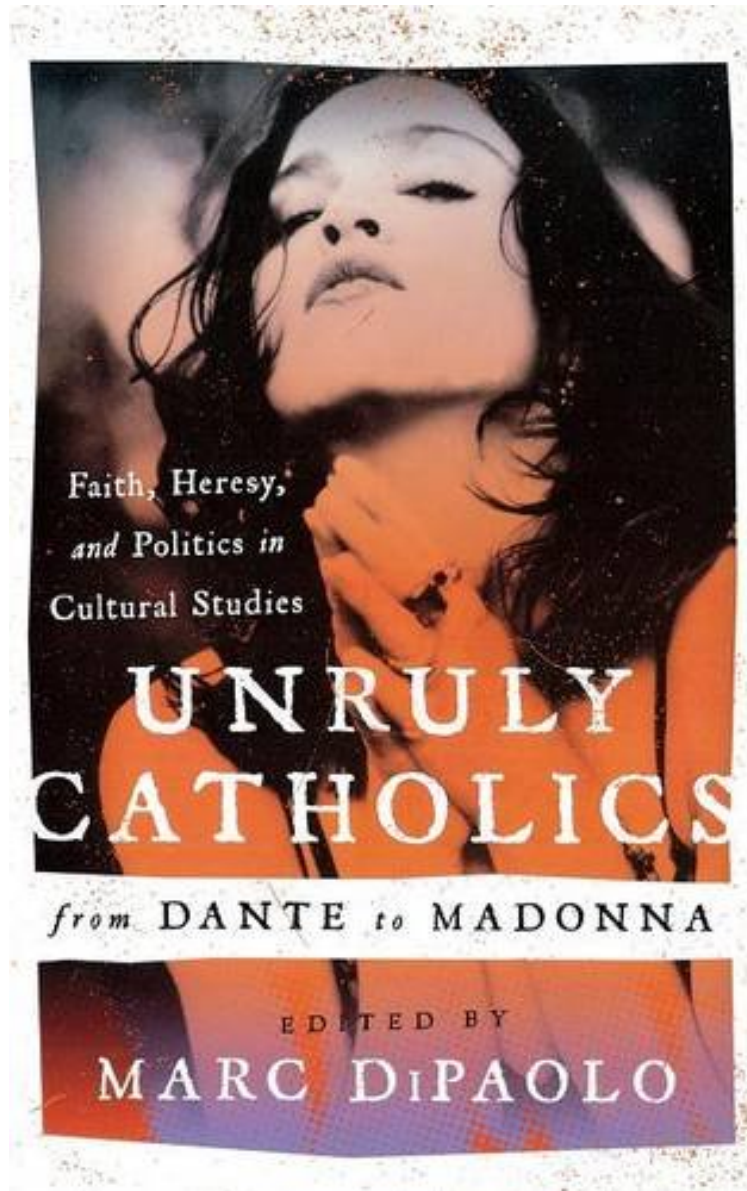


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Unruly Catholics from Dante to Madonna: Faith, Heresy, and Politics in Cultural Studies

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From Scarecrow Press : Unruly Catholics from Dante to Madonna: Faith, Heresy, and Politics in Cultural Studies before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unruly Catholics from Dante to Madonna: Faith, Heresy, and Politics in Cultural Studies:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By D. Farris DiPaolo is a great author with very intelligent, inciteful contributors giving essays on modern Catholicism's intersection with politics, popular culture, and the 21st century Catholic. A must read for those who are "thinking Christians!" 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Read for the Unruly Catholic in All of Us By Timothy Haugh I only wish that this book wasn't so expensive. I wouldn't have a copy myself except for the fact that my parents got me a copy for Christmas after I put it on my wish list. I spent the next few days reading the essays here with great interest and found the majority of them to be well-written and insightful. The rather lengthy introduction by the editor, Mr. DiPaolo, is the most personal of the essays. He describes his transition from a conservative to a liberal Catholic. In his stories of discontent with priestly sermons that seem to shut out more than gather in and his joy in his reexamination of artists like C.S. Lewis and Madonna many open-minded Catholics will find a mirror of their own experience. (His analysis of Madonna's Like a Prayer video is particularly compelling, though I am not a fan of her or the video.) This leads him on to a closer look at many other writers, musicians and movies, some of which are covered in some depth by other writers in this collection. Like any book that gathers different authors together, there is varying quality in the writing; however, most of the authors here do an excellent job. There is analysis of Dante, Greene, Wilde, Hopkins, Waugh and Dorothy Day. We also get a look at movies directed by Kevin Smith as well as Rosemary's Baby, The Godfather, and Star Wars. As a big fan of Kevin Smith, I was happy to see his work taken seriously. I also liked the suggestions of Dante's rebelliousness and liked the idea of how he would re-work the Divine Comedy with popes and other people of today. However, I was particularly taken by Thomas Aiello's comparison of the cold war themes of Rosemary's Baby to the anti-Catholic themes of the nineteenth century novel *Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery of Montreal* by Maria Monk. On the other hand, I was more disappointed by Kathryn Inskeep's look at Gerard Manley Hopkins poem *The Blessed Virgin*. Even if you see the influence of homosexuality in Hopkins work which I, admittedly, don't think the connections she makes through this to the Virgin and the Eucharist are tenuous at best. Still, in a collection such as this, there's bound to be a sour note or two for any reader. But they are few and far between here. This book is a must read for anyone who is interested in thinking more deeply about Catholicism, in particular, how it is reflected in book and movies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An engaging read By C. S. Finally, a book that's not written by youth groupies. This is a wonderful collection of essays written by some fresh, edgy thinkers. I especially like the suggestions for reform. This should be mandatory reading in every Catholic high school. Also, the cover is excellent. Overall a worthwhile read for anyone with remote interest in modern day Catholicism.

During the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church went through a period of liberal reform under the stewardship of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI. Successive popes sharply reversed course, enforcing conservative ideological values and silencing progressive voices in the Church. Consequently, those Catholics who had embraced the spirit of Vatican II were left feeling adrift and betrayed. In *Unruly Catholics* from Dante to Madonna, scholars of literature, film, religion, history, and sociology delve into this conflict and historically similar ones through the examination of narratives by and about rebellious Catholics. Essays in *Unruly Catholics* explore how renowned Catholic literary figures Dante Alighieri, Oscar Wilde, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, and Gerard Manley Hopkins dealt with the disparities between their personal beliefs and the Church's official teachings. Contributors also suggest how controversial entertainers such as Madonna, Kevin Smith, Michael Moore, and Stephen Colbert practice forms of Catholicism perhaps worthy of respect. Most pointedly, *Unruly Catholics* addresses the recent sex abuse scandals, considers the possibility that the Church might be reformed from within, and presents three iconic figures: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, and C.S. Lewis as models of compassionate and reformist Christianity.

This lively and timely collection revisits in contemporary contexts the long-standing debate around the catholicity of Catholic traditions. -- Ruth Vanita, author of *Sappho and the Virgin Mary* This is a book that broadens narrow religious horizons steeped in the twilight of the culture wars, developing fresh appreciations for faith in its various manifestations in literature, film, politics, and everyday life. -- Joerg Rieger, author of *Occupy Religion* Frustrating traditional divisions between scholarly disciplines, high and low culture, spiritual and sensual, academic and subjective. DiPaolo's writing is personal in voice and form. To read DiPaolo is to engage with a sharp mind and a quick wit, to be startled and to see differently. -- Katherine Brown Downey, author of *Perverse Midrash* About the Author Marc DiPaolo (PhD in English, Drew University) is an assistant professor of English and Film at Oklahoma City University, and has published several books examining intersections between literature, popular culture, politics, and religion, including *War, Politics and Superheroes* (CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2011).