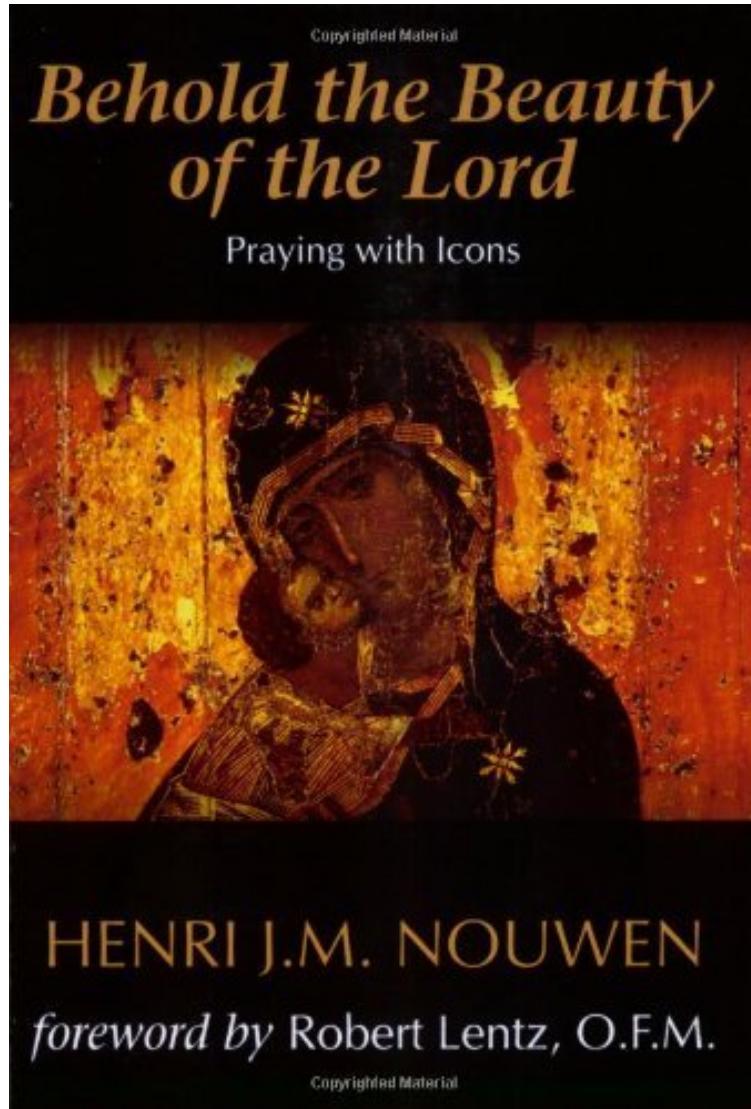


[Free pdf] Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying With Icons

## Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying With Icons

*Henri J. M. Nouwen*  
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**Henri J. M. Nouwen : Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying With Icons** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying With Icons:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's Nouwen again...By albert l adamsI've never read anything by Nouwen that I didn't like. I have been to Eastern Europe several times, and each time, tried to purchase an icon or some religious artifact to remember my trip by. I had seen Orthodox Christians praying with Icons (not praying to, mind you...praying with), and wanted a better understanding of the practice. Nouwen writes that they are to be used like windows into heaven, not as base objects to be worshiped. Nouwen actually takes several icons and explains the meaning behind them (such as the empty space at the table in Rublev's "Trinity") in order to help the reader learn to

focus on certain aspects of faith. Offers clarity to the practice of praying with icons. A good companion piece to Linette Martin's "Sacred Doorways".1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Inspirational Read!By CustomerThis is a beautiful book to read if you have an interest in the beautiful icons and the meaning behind them. Perhaps you have seen these icons in Catholic and Orthodox churches here and abroad, icons are a Liturgical Art, and have significant meaning behind each step in the painting process. The author has done a beautiful job of explaining the meaning as he sees it with each of five icons. It is a beautiful book to own.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Behold the Beauty of the Lord; Praying With IconsBy Elizabeth HeidlerExactly that for which I was looking; a small yet mighty book by a favorite author on a subject of great interest. This is well thought out, the icon's researched, studied and as understanding and spiritual insights were expanded, admiration grew and the icons became treasured and loved. The author shared his inspiration and explanations with warmth, wisdom and clarity.

This is a book of meditations penned by famed Catholic writer Henri Nouwen, growing out of his contemplation of icons during sojourns at l'Arche, a community for people with mental handicaps in Trosly, France.

Henri J. M. Nouwen, who wrote more than 40 books, remains one of the most popular spiritual writers of our time. This paperback is a revised version of a volume released in 1987. We are assaulted by images in a society where consumerism comes at us through posters, billboards, television, movies and store windows. But icons are a different thing completely. Nouwen presents meditations on four icons: the icon of the Holy Trinity, the icon of the Virgin of Vladimir, the icon of the Savior of Zvenigorod, and the icon of the Descent of the Spirit: "By giving the icons long and prayerful attention talking about them, reading about them, but mostly just gazing at them in silence I have gradually come to know them by heart. I see them now whether they are physically present or not. I have memorized them as I have memorized the Our Father and the Hail Mary, and I pray with them wherever I go." Icons are a part of the sacred liturgy of the Eastern Orthodox Church and are used in worship services. Nouwen points out that they do not excite our outer senses but speak to our heart. Those who gaze at icons as a spiritual practice believe they draw closer to God in the process. Nouwen presents substantive spiritual analysis of the icon of the Holy Trinity, which he sees as a pathway into the Mystery of God's self-revelation. The icon of the Virgin of Vladimir is an invitation to enter the divine milieu with gratitude and joy. Nouwen sees in the eyes of the icon of the Savior of Zvenigorod a revelation about the mystery of the Incarnation. And, finally, in the icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, he feels a celebration of the power and meaning of community. Nouwen concludes: "Working on these meditations has been a great delight. Praying became writing and writing became praying. More energy was granted than consumed in the process. I fervently hope that you who read these meditations will experience some of this same delight, and thus deepen your desire to behold the beauty of the Lord expressed in these holy images." --Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, spiritualityandpractice.comAbout the AuthorHenri J. M. Nouwen is one of the most popular spiritual writers of our time. He wrote more than forty books, among them the bestselling *Out of Solitude*. He taught at the University of Notre Dame, as well as Yale and Harvard Universities. From 1986 until his death in 1996, he was part of the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto, where he shared his life with people with mental disabilities. Robert Lentz, O.F.M., a Franciscan friar, is one of the best-known contemporary icon painters in North America. His work has been shown around the world, has appeared on the covers of many books and magazines, and is featured with the text of Joan Chittister's book, *A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God*. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.