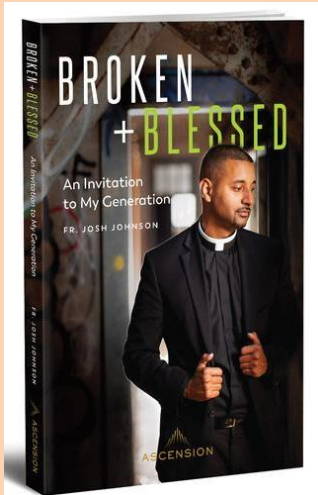


As listed in the Sisters in the Spirit (in the Archdiocese of Washington) newsletter, March-May, 2019.

Book Review Corner -- Broken & Blessed (Fr. Josh Johnson) by Cecilia Braveboy



If you want an engaging book about our personal relationship with Jesus in communion with our Catholic faith, then I encourage you to read Broken and Blessed: An Invitation to My Generation by Fr. Josh Johnson. Published by Ascension Press in 173 pages, this book for all ages is grounded in daily life, prayerful, biblically-based, educational, and thought-provoking. Through Facebook, YouTube videos, and social media the last several years, I have been following and praying for Fr. Josh Johnson's road to the priesthood and his ministry particularly to Catholic young adults in and outside of the Church. In November 2018, the Minkisi ministry annual retreat at my parish gave 50 Washington, DC metro area participants a 'Spirit tool', Broken and Blessed (hot off the press). Recently two 40-year-old-and-under retreat friends wrote about the book:

--I can honestly say that I thought this book was simply an account of Fr. Josh's spiritual journey, but it is so much more! I love how it provides an easy to understand history of the church, and the foundation of what we believe. It is practical, prayerful, and powerful! I have not finished the book, but I love how he has given me power to defend the Church, too!

--I highly recommend Broken and Blessed for anyone who's love for God or love for the Church is burning dimly or currently extinguished. Father Josh lays out nicely how vital the Church is to one's spiritual growth. He also does a great job explaining why having a robust prayer life is so essential to encountering the love of God. It is in prayer that we feel the loving gaze of God upon us and receive the grace to bring God's love to the world. This book is also a wonderful encouragement to continue to fight the good fight for those who have a thriving spiritual life, and the discussion questions peppered throughout the book makes it the perfect book club recommendation.

Fr. Josh celebrates his fifth anniversary as a priest and a couple of years as the pastor of Holy Rosary Church in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is an evangelist/educator, who has a weekly podcast ("Ask Fr. Josh") and leads retreats and conferences across the country.

'Hope you consider Broken and Blessed for your faith enrichment and that of others. For Lent thru Pentecost you might read the chapters and ponder on the reflection questions. I plan to use Broken and Blessed as the African Heritage reading in my Minkisi parish group. You can even gift the book to a friend. Go ye disciples and spread the Good News!