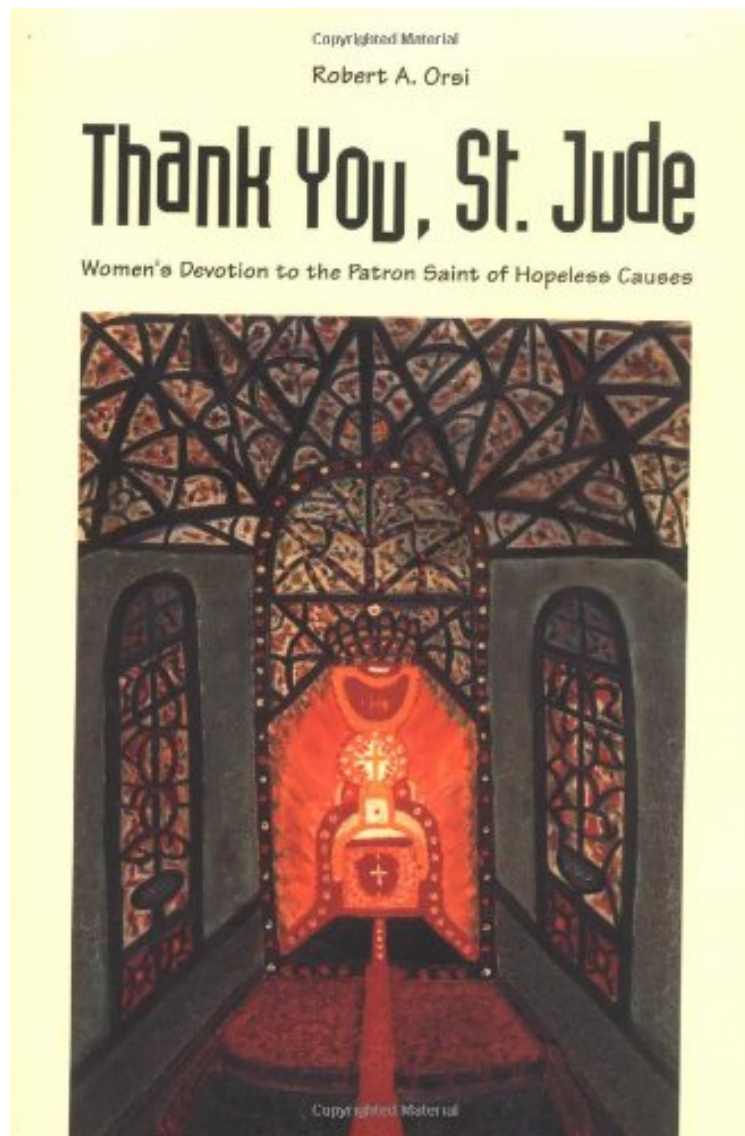


[Ebook free] Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes

# Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes

*Robert A. Orsi*

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**Robert A. Orsi : Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thank You, St. Jude: Women's Devotion to the Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating look inside a religious sub-culture By Jonathan Andersen St. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless causes, and the cult of devotion surrounding him was first established

in a Mexican-American church in Chicago during 1929. Orsi's *Thank You, St. Jude* draws upon extensive knowledge in the fields of religious, social, cultural, and scientific history in order to relay the unique story of women's devotion to this unique saint. Orsi's work begins with the cult's establishment and traces stories of women's relationship with Jude as they navigated a rapidly shifting culture in the United States, turbulent economic situations, familial problems, and more. These stories are largely taken from letters sent to St. Jude, devotional publications, and personal interviews. Orsi weaves them in thematic chapters while providing analysis along the way. Orsi's main arguments center on the many dialectics regarding women's devotion to St. Jude. These dialectics include how St. Jude shaped the culture and lives of the women who gave him devotion even as their devotion shaped how he was imagined by the Church in the United States. Another of Orsi's arguments is that St. Jude, who was often turned to in deep despair and loneliness, transformed women's lives by connecting them with other sympathetic women and provided healing by giving them hope, a voice, and a new way to imagine their medical situations. Finally, Orsi believes that embedded in all of St. Jude's service to women was the reality that St. Jude needs them for his preservation just as much as they have needed him throughout history. The material culture sources that Orsi engages and weaves throughout the book provide for a fascinating look inside a religious sub-culture of the United States that few regularly enter into. Devotees' narrative stories move the book's arguments forward in engaging ways, and Orsi's multi-faceted knowledge of history provides for sharp analysis. At times, Orsi employed too many examples from his sources and left me wondering how this history proved relevant to my life. Even so, his work revealed how one could write an engaging book on such a specific topic. 9 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Detailed history of St. Jude's popularity beginning in the US. By A Customer This book offers the reader a detailed account of St. Jude's history and popularity in America. The author interviewed countless women in Chicago to learn of their common themes that brought them to honor St. Jude. As a devout friend of St. Jude I found this book to be fascinating. 2 of 10 people found the following review helpful. My Grandmother from Chicago and in her 90's is enjoying this book. By Shellie D. Nunn I have not read this book myself but I sent it to my grandmother because she is a follower of St. Jude. She is 92 years old, and prays to him daily. She is enjoying it and says it is a "stroll down memory lane" for her since she is from the area and was a child and a young adult during and around the time the book is set.

St. Jude, patron saint of hopeless causes, is the most popular saint of the American Catholic laity, particularly among women. This fascinating book describes how the cult of St. Jude originated in 1929, traces the rise in Jude's popularity over the next decades, and investigates the circumstances that led so many Catholic women to feel hopeless and to turn to St. Jude for help. Robert A. Orsi tells us that the women who were drawn to St. Jude - daughters and granddaughters of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and Ireland - were the first generations of Catholic women to make lives for themselves outside of their ethnic enclaves. Orsi explores the ambitions and dilemmas of these women as they dealt with the pressures of the Depression and the Second World War, made modern marriages for themselves, entered the workplace, took care of relatives in their old neighborhoods, and raised children in circumstances very different from those of their mothers and grandmothers. Drawing on testimonies written in the periodicals devoted to St. Jude and on interviews with women who felt their lives were changed by St. Jude's intervention, Orsi shows how devotion to St. Jude enabled these women to negotiate their way amid the conflicting expectations of their two cultures - American and Catholic.

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