

MORE ADVANCE PRAISE FOR *HOLY ABORTION?*
(continued from the back cover)

“A powerful statement on the immorality of abortion on demand that should be taken seriously by all churches.”

— *Donald G. Bloesch*
Emeritus Professor of Theology
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

“Michael Gorman and Ann Brooks have done the mainline denominations a great service in unmasking the sub-Christian rhetoric of self-idolatry promoted by the literature of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Every mainline denomination associated with RCRC should now rethink such an association.”

— *Robert Gagnon*
Associate Professor of New Testament
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

“On the most intensely controverted question in our public life, this book may not move people from the pro-choice to the pro-life column. That is not its chief purpose. Its chief purpose, as I understand it, is to make the case that religious communities should care about their own moral and spiritual integrity. *Holy Abortion?* offers convincing evidence that the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice advances positions that are in clear conflict with the teachings of religious communities that support the organization.

Disagreements about abortion will go on and on. Whatever our convictions on the question, we must never despair of the power of continuing conversation and persuasion. Honest conversation and persuasion begin with honesty. This little book is a simple and compelling appeal for honesty.”

— *Rev. Richard John Neuhaus*
President, Religion and Public Life
Editor, *First Things*

continued

“This small book makes a significant contribution in clarifying the theological and moral assumptions implicit in three major evaluations of abortion. By demonstrating how closely the positions on abortion resemble the Christian tradition’s views on war, the authors offer a thoughtful and important challenge to the contemporary church.”

— *Christine D. Pohl*

Professor of Social Ethics
Asbury Theological Seminary

“Gorman and Brooks give a brilliant account of the reversal of values regarding abortion in which vice is seen as virtue and virtue as vice, thus obscuring the deep evil of abortion and its corruptive impact on our culture.”

— *H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr., Ph.D., M.D.*

Professor of Philosophy, Rice University
Professor of Medicine Emeritus, Baylor College of Medicine
Co-editor, *Christian Bioethics*

HOLY ABORTION?

**A Theological Critique of the
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice**

*Why Christians and Christian Churches
Should Reconsider the Issue of Abortion*

**Michael J. Gorman
and
Ann Loar Brooks**

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Holy Abortion?
A Theological Critique of the
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
By Michael J. Gorman and Ann Loar Brooks

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Both authors wish to express their gratitude to the National Pro-life Religious Council for the invitation to write this small book, and to members of the Council who provided assistance and advice. We also wish to thank those who read and commented on drafts of all or part of the book: Rev. Phillip Brown, Ms. Georgette Forney, Prof. Stanley Hauerwas, Rev. Mr. Pat Keane, Rev. Leonard Klein, Ms. Terry Schlossberg, and Rev. Paul Stallsworth. Special thanks are also owed to Pat Keane for his research assistance. We have made every effort to be fair and accurate in our descriptions and analyses of RCRC and its affiliates. Any remaining deficiencies are in no way the responsibility of those who assisted us.

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PREFACE

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT RELIGION should be concerned with, it is truth. While politicians, partisans, social activists, and marketers may be willing to surrender the truth to achieve the goal, religious leaders ought to instead surrender the goal to achieve the truth. This is especially so of Christians. Our Lord said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” He often began his instruction with, “I tell you the truth....” Truth-telling is at the heart of the Gospel. The Gospel is at the heart of Truth.

In *Holy Abortion?* the authors have delivered a great gift to the religious community: the truth about religion and abortion. This treatise uncovers the dubious alliance between (on the one hand) a nearly universally suspect moral position and the groups and individuals who promote it and (on the other) the communities and organizations of truth-seekers who have wrestled with it and have even agonized over it.

Holy Abortion? is a well-documented, reasoned exposé of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). In publishing it, the National Pro-life Religious Council (NPRC) hopes, indeed prays, that it will spark a renewed and painfully honest conversation about the never-ending question of the role of religion and religious groups in shaping society’s disposition toward the most vulnerable members of the human family, the unborn, and the mothers and fathers who are inseparably linked to them.

It is our hope and prayer that this honest conversation will quickly lead to the withdrawal of religious entanglement with abortion advocacy. So-called reproductive-rights groups, abortion providers, and political organizations have their own motives, objectives, and methods for advancing the pro-choice agenda. The religious communities that hold membership or interest in RCRC do not at all share these motives, objectives, and methods.

Though NPRC endorses this book, it is the work of two individuals who have no formal affiliation with NPRC and have been given complete freedom to develop and express their own perspective. The members of the National Pro-life Religious Council urge the reader to approach this material with an open and a constructively critical mind.

Someone somewhere said, “A problem revealed is a problem half-solved.” Dr. Michael Gorman and Ms. Ann Loar Brooks have accomplished the former. It is up to the rest of us to accomplish the latter.

Rev. Rob Schenck

National Pro-life Religious Council, Washington, DC