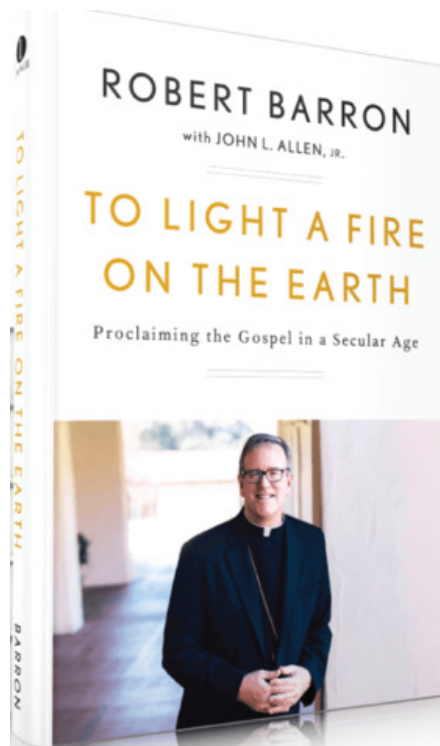




To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age

Robert E. Barron , John L. Allen

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The highly anticipated follow-up to Bishop Robert Barron's hugely successful *Catholicism: A Journey to the Faith*

As secularism gains influence, and increasing numbers see religion as dull and backward, Robert Barron wants to illuminate how beautiful, intelligent, and relevant the Catholic faith is.

In this compelling new book—drawn from conversations with and narrated by award-winning Vatican journalist John L. Allen, Jr.—Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, proclaims in vivid language the goodness and truth of the Catholic tradition. Through Barron's smart, practical, artistic, and theological observations as well as personal anecdotes—from engaging atheists on YouTube to discussing his days as a young diehard baseball fan from Chicago—*To Light a Fire on the Earth* covers prodigious ground.

Touching on everything from Jesus to prayer, science, movies, atheism, the spiritual life, the fate of Church in modern times, beauty, art, and social media, Barron reveals why the Church matters today and how Catholics can intelligently engage a skeptical world.

To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age Details

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From Reader Review To Light a Fire on the Earth: Proclaiming the Gospel in a Secular Age for online ebook

Wendy Wong Schirmer says

This book is excellent for several reasons, all of them related: its holistic and compelling presentation of what Catholicism is and isn't in terms of the transcendentals: the good, the true, and the beautiful; getting to know Bishop Robert Barron and what drives him and his Word On Fire internet ministry, and popular spiritual, theological, and philosophical misunderstandings that are often a stumbling block to the Catholic faith, not just among non-Catholics, but many of those who profess to have been "raised Catholic" or claim to be committed Catholics.

Like the series of interviews the German journalist Peter Seewald conducted with Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, the former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith who subsequently became Pope Benedict XVI, *To Light a Fire on the Earth* is in the format of an interview, and Barron's interlocutor is journalist John Allen, well known for covering the Catholic beat in the United States and Rome.

Upon being named auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, Barron relates that his superior, Archbishop Gomez told him: "be present to your people, give them hope, teach them doctrine." Barron does that in spades here, not just in terms of the work he's done of many years, but the very content of this book.

Where Barron has always excelled-- and one can see this both in his short YouTube videos and at length in the *Catholicism* series that aired on both PBS and EWTN when it first dropped-- is knowing how everything fits together. Whether one is Catholic or not, *To Light a Fire on the Earth* provides the reader with an approachable sense of the lay of the land in the Church in the United States, in Rome, and the world, throughout the structure and the hierarchy right down to the individual lay believer, what's at stake, and what can be and is to be done. Here, one reads of what Catholics believe and don't believe about God and humanity and faith and reason, what it means to think like a Catholic and see the world through Catholic eyes as well as what the logical implications are, stumbling blocks to both belief and implementation both inside and outside the Church, the tectonic plates and where bridges need to be built in the Church in the United States, what it means to "go out to meet the culture with fife and drum," in the words of the Protestant theologian Paul Tillich. It's not a work of apologetics, but it's where Barron emphasizes the reasons for apologetics at all. Barron also doesn't shy away from hard questions and how the Church addresses them, making it clear that orthodoxy, orthopraxis, and pastoral sensitivity go together without watering any of those things down.

To Light a Fire on the Earth can therefore act as a practical guide at the parish level-- not just for priests who have to prepare homilies, but for anyone teaching RCIA or getting involved in evangelization work. It's also a practical guide to any Catholic who wants to deepen their faith, but can potentially whet the appetite of any non-Catholic or non-believer who is the least bit curious. To that end, Word on Fire has also made free for download an accompanying workbook in PDF format. At the very least, it's a book that prompts anyone at all to engage who Catholics are and what "the Catholic thing" is all about. As I've sometimes exhorted my students whenever approaching religion in a classroom setting: "I don't care what you personally believe; when it comes to the beliefs of others, just get it right."

To that effect, Barron's *bete noire* has always been what he calls "beige" or "dumbed-down Catholicism," the results of which he even goes as far as to say are a "pastoral disaster." In an episode of the *Word on Fire Show*, Barron relates advice he received from his late mentor and archbishop Francis Cardinal George: "if you're not a man of ideas, you're going to be a lousy pastor of Jesus Christ." It's not hard to see why: a beige Catholicism is often an aggressively bland Catholicism. And if human beings are matter and spirit, and not

either/or as the Church teaches for her professed belief in Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, then approaching people with watered-down faith that insults their intelligence isn't exactly pastoral. A dumbed-down faith also doesn't let Jesus be Jesus: presenting Jesus as He is-- God made man, and also mysterious and strange rather than comfortable and domesticated-- means presenting a Jesus Who is compelling and anything but blah, because He's simply big enough and weird enough as He truly is for there to be something there for everybody to latch onto, and then to go deeper.

Barron has therefore always insisted on a presentation of Catholicism that is smart, beautiful, and radiant, convinced that life centered on, through, with, and in Jesus Christ produces lives that are exactly those things. The Communion of Saints, after all, is made up of radically different individuals, and yet, what produces such vibrant individuality is paradoxically that their lives are about one thing: conformity to Jesus Christ, which means accepting right relationship with Him and the means that He Himself provides in order for that relationship to thrive (the Sacraments). What that produces, Barron never gets tired of relating, is lives that compellingly radiate goodness, truth, and beauty in the most vibrant way. Or, in the words of one of his other theological heroes (Barron's main man is St. Thomas Aquinas), St. Irenaeus: "the glory of God is a human being fully alive." The panoramic range of the Catholic faith is therefore on full display here.

Judi says

Another amazing book by the evangelist, theologian, philosopher, Bishop Robert Barron. He often tackles the religious topics that so many people want to walk away from. He does it in such an accessible way as to make sense of the issues we need to face.

In his critically acclaimed, video series, Catholicism, Bishop Barron leads with the truth of beauty to bring the viewer around so that he can teach us the beauty of truth. His podcasts and sermons get to the heart of the Gospels. But where does he come from? What are his goals?

So this book is about his walk of faith, how he got where he is, the education and people who helped him form his teachings, and how the dynamic movement, Word on Fire, came about. He is the founder. This book is extraordinary, so interesting, and always insightful. This is a priest, rightly ordered to Jesus Christ, the Bible, and Catholic Church teachings. I often listen to his podcasts, and watch his videos on Youtube, too. This priest has been compared to the great Bishop Fulton Sheen who had a very popular television show in the 1950's. There are some similarities, but Bishop Barron is so much more accessible as he is very knowledgeable about pop culture, atheism, secularism, scientism, theology, philosophy - you name it. He is very current on it all. He's not in some ivory tower, he is a priest among us. Not seeking his own glory, he seeks the Glory of God and evangelizing God's people of any religion, including bringing former Catholics back home to the church. Not fire and brimstone, ever. Nope, he is open minded, and positive in his approach.

He appeals to people first with the beauty, Bible teachings, rich traditions of the Catholic church. The exquisite and extraordinary beauty and variety of Catholic art and architecture are seen in the Catholicism video series. In this book, he talks about how that series, which was so popular on PBS a few years ago, came about. That series was breathtakingly beautiful and taught about the Catholic Faith by taking the viewer to the Holy Land and to Rome and Ephesus. Wow! Bishop Barron helps people to understand the reasons for the laws we follow. He has a unique approach which I appreciate. His insights, methods, goals, are here in this book. Fascinating.

Cameron Murray says

I am admittedly a huge Barron fan, a big fan of Word on Fire, and practically everything the man stands for. I've been following him, his ministry, and his work for many years now, and this book is no different. I'm delighted to have read it, and it's splendid. I'd recommend it to any and all readers, and surely to Barron's delight, especially to the "none's" and the "hard-core atheists," but not to forget the fallen Catholics.

This book isn't necessarily a biography on Bishop Robert Barron, but there are many instances throughout that go into some detail of the bishop's life and history to lay the foundation for a particular chapter or theme. I've known he was a native Chicagoan, that he was at Mundelein and its rector, and I've known about his appointment to LA as an auxiliary bishop. Like I said, big fan here.

John Allen Jr is a natural narrator and goes through the narrative with ease and the book is very readable, so that anyone can dive in and take it all in stride.

I particularly enjoyed the chapter on the chapter on Word on Fire taking his ministry to a movement, as it gave a better insight to those of us following what his plans and aspirations are to help evangelize the culture and bring more people to Christ. I'm a big fan of the their podcast, The Word on Fire Show, and some of their plans have been highlighted there, too.

Overall, stellar book, and can't wait for more from bishop Barron and the future of the Word on Fire team. May God bless him and his work!

John Droesch says

Excellent book. An enjoyable dialogue between John Allen and Bishop Barron that explores the motivation, background and plans of the “ ‘el Gran Predicador’ that makes the airwaves tremble.” Barron is a much needed figure in the Catholic world to help rebuild the faith and evangelize the culture.

Jon Wisnieski says

Very good read. The more I learn about Barron, the more I like him. He is exactly the intelligent, passionate, winsome voice that the Catholic Church needs desperately today.

Judi Maylone says

“He wants to draw you into Catholic faith and practice, not because he thinks you’ll be punished if you don’t become a part of the Church but because he thinks it’s so amazing, so rich, so powerful - in three key words - so beautiful, good and true- that your life will be infinitely better because of it.”

Hard to rate, as this is not the type of book I usually read so I have no comparative basis. It made me interested in aspects of my religion I realized I am not well informed about. It made me excited to find ways I can better share my faith and practice in the "beautiful, good and true" that draws me to it.

Colin says

Bishop Robert Barron has been using the media to share the Gospel with an increasingly secularized culture since his days as a Chicago priest in the 1990s. In *To Light a Fire on the Earth*, John Allen, Jr. Interviews Bishop Barron and presents his thoughts and experience on a broad range of topics as they relate to evangelization.

The book covers familiar topics such as the existence of God, the bible and common objections to the faith and Christ's church. What sets this book apart from more general works on these topics is relating them to evangelizing lapsed Catholics and the secular "nones." After a brief biography of Barron, the discussion begins with the three transcendentals.

They lead with beauty, in accordance with Barron's recommendation for evangelization. Bishop Barron proposes that the beautiful provides a more appealing path to goodness and truth for today's nones. He finds beauty in traditional places like gothic architecture and polyphonic music. But he also looks for God, and ways to share God, in the unexpected corners of pop culture, such as Hollywood movies and Bob Dylan.

When they move on to goodness and truth, the Bishop continues to pursue what is positive and appealing. Instead of presenting apparently unappealing rules or dry theology, Bishop Barron considers the saints. Those whose lives are marked by heroic virtue provide tangible examples, not of rules, but how goodness can transform human lives. Bishop Barron doesn't shy away from controversy and can defend the intellectual tradition of the church with the best of them, he simply proposes leading with a positive message as an evangelistic strategy. A favorite analogy of his that he shares is baseball: you don't get people to love baseball by starting with the infield fly rule. Only once one loves baseball do the rules make sense.

After covering the transcendentals, the book moves through various topics. Bishop Barron gives advice both on how you might want to approach topics (don't lead with hell or sexual morality) and how to handle those more unappealing topics when they're brought up. Bishop Barron acknowledges that past sins of the church and unappealing presentations of the faith have hurt people and can be a barrier to evangelization today. He recommends acknowledging these facts and not defending the indefensible.

To Light a Fire on the Earth is not an exhaustive resource on apologetic arguments or doctrine. Instead, it's an enjoyable and quick read that can help a would-be evangelist set off in the right direction when it comes to reaching out to lapsed Catholics, "nones", and hard-core atheists. Bishop Barron is realistic in his expectations - not everybody he encounters converts on the spot. The hope, however is that some are lead to Christ and others may at least be more open for the experience.

Craig Turnbull says

Here's Father Barron, Chicago-born, Paris-educated, newly appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Los Angeles diocese, and now poster-child for American Catholicism. Deeply rooted in the past with teachers like Thomas Aquinas, Augustine, Origen, and the more recent mystic/scholar Thomas Merton (d.1968) and even a singer by the name of Bob Dylan, Barron has made it his calling to reach out to the modern American people and indeed the world with a fully rationalized version of the Catholic Church.

I first pinged on Barron trolling his wildly popular YouTube channel with his now famous movie reviews

and interactions with the surrounding culture. I've also caught snippets of his equally popular series CATHOLICISM. In every dose, Barron's 'everyman' style and clear academic power shines through. The man has a big brain, and a big heart to reach people.

As to the book, so much was good to read. As an evangelical minister, I have often tossed the Roman Catholic stream of Christianity into the buckets around the Council of Trent, mentally offloading it into irrelevance, as though it was stuck in time. Barron's thoughts however did much to educate me on the new Vatican II American brand of Catholicism and his sincere efforts to reach the lapsed Catholics, the growing secular 'nones,' and hard-core atheist alike.

"Barron is wholeheartedly convinced that Catholicism is true and good, but he's equally convinced that, at its best, it's also gorgeous, fun, fulfilling, life-affirming—and that if you can break through the cultural noise to get people to see all that, they'll respond." (40)

His words and Allen's (he's the real author) build a solid understanding of not only this dynamic man, but also his much loved teachings.

Evangelical readers looking to understand the Catholic church today would find *To Light a Fire on the Earth* helpful for two reasons:

1. As a primer into the thought behind the parish down the street from them in their neighborhood.
2. As an aid in understanding the culture around us, Barron has a great read on the postmodern America, and dials into those questions and hurts well.

That said, Barron is still a Catholic, and a very devout one at that. As such, there are irreducible differences between his theology and mine. He's a deep student of Scripture as well as the tradition of the Church and views both as equal poles of authority. I on the other hand, see Scripture as the final and exclusive authority. He has a strong theology and devotion to Mary and sees the value of the intercession of the saints. I see only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. He views the Eucharist as a transformation miracle. I understand it to be deeply devotional, but nonetheless not salvific or grace-bestowing in any way. He has, at times, a weak understanding of salvation by grace alone through faith alone.

At the end of the day, even the modern, revised, Barron-voiced Catholic church is divergent from the teachings of Scripture. Although his language is common to mine at times, his meaning behind the words are just not the same.

David Warren says

This book is insightful, inspirational, and educational in the classic Bishop Barron style. It would certainly be a terrific gift for anyone intrigued by an aspect of Catholicism who wants to know more about the faith. It also serves as a call to remind Catholics of their important task of evangelization in a secular world.

Barron draws from his vast wealth of knowledge and shares gems of information on every other page in a conversational style.

Co-Author John Allen writes the book detailing his conversations with Barron in what reads like a long-form magazine interview.

My only critique is that too much of the book relies on statements that Barron has already given in his Word

On Fire Podcast. Several portions of the book seem to simply be transcribed from previously aired episodes. As someone who has literally listened to all 100+ episodes, I was already familiar with many of the ideas shared in this book and felt like I had to retread old territory in order to discover something new.

Still, there is new material in the book that I haven't heard or read anywhere else. Further, seeing Barron's words in print allowed me time to draw references and discover historical nuance that I was previously unaware of.

Conclusion: A perfect book for anyone who hasn't already been following Barron for some time. Consider it an intro to the Word on Fire movement.

Cathy says

Excellent! Having enjoyed many of the series Bishop Barron developed with the help of Word on Fire and having listened to many of his YouTube videos, it was enlightening to hear how he got to be such a dynamic Catholic evangelist and to hear about his views on many issues that we struggle with today.

Father Brice Higginbotham says

This is easily the best book I've read on the **theory** of evangelization, particularly the theory of evangelization in the contemporary West. As a Catholic priest whose job, therefore, is evangelization in the contemporary context, I am most grateful for this work and am most certainly putting it to use.

Bob says

Summary: An interview between Barron and Allen that is part biography and part outline of Barron's approach to the "new evangelization" of which his Word on Fire ministry is a leading exemplar.

Robert Barron is one of five Auxiliary Bishops in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. and through his YouTube postings, his Word on Fire website, and other media is probably one of the most followed Catholics on social media. He is the host of CATHOLICISM, a series of PBS documentaries on the Catholic Church. He is one of the most visible leaders of the "new evangelization" within the church. In this book, he engages with Catholic writer, John Allen in a wide-ranging discussion that is part biography and part survey of his key ideas and convictions that shape his ministry.

The Introduction and Chapter One focus on "The Barron Story." We find out that Barron was an ordinary Catholic kid (and avid baseball player and fan) growing up in the era of Vatican II whose religious imagination was captured while in high school (!) he was exposed to Thomas Merton and St. Thomas Aquinas. A year at Notre Dame resulted in a calling to the priesthood, studies at Catholic University, ordination in Chicago and further studies under von Balthasar in France, where he came to a "post-liberal" perspective centered in Christ and scripture. A move back to Chicago to teach at Mundelein Seminary led to mentoring from Father Andrew Greeley and Cardinal Francis George and encouragement to break into the media world that led to the YouTube videos, the CATHOLICISM series and Word on Fire.

With that the discussion moves to the "three pillars" of Barron's message--beauty, goodness, and truth. Barron believes in this generation, the evangelist leads with beauty and goodness, which point toward, but don't elucidate the truth of the gospel. In his approach to "Catholic beauty," he focuses on great literature, great cathedrals, great music, and great movies. Much of his focus on goodness centers around the saints and martyrs. He makes a fascinating statement about the latter:

"I thought, the only way Europe's going to be reevangelized is through the martyrs. In some ways, it's a terrible thing to say, but it's true. Argument will be part of it, but it's the martyrs. Martyrs will reevangelize Europe, and maybe it's missionary martyrs as in the early centuries of the Church's life."

He believes the martyrs focus attention on the end or teleology of morals rather than morality as keeping a bunch of rules. He believes in a church that both maintains high standards without obsessively focusing on them, and stresses the essentials of Catholic life and belief and the greatness of God's mercy. Barron the baseball fan describes it as wanting people to "feel the infield...to smell the ballpark."

He believes that it is through the beauty and goodness to be found in the Catholic heritage that people open up to truth. And here, Barron speaks out against a "beige Catholicism" that is bland and apologetic with no hard edges. He contends for a message centered on the priority of Christ, that contends that not all truth is found through science or personal experience, and that Christianity is not simply one of many ways up the mountain.

This brings us to center in on his ideas about evangelization, which he believes is to bring people into a relationship with a person, with Christ. The evangelist proposes, rather than imposes. He is especially concerned with the spiritual but not religious "nones" as well as those who have departed from the church. He holds up Christopher Hitchens as a model of an evangelist--smart, witty, and willing to argue hard.

The book turns to Barron's views of prayer and the supernatural, which he fully believes in, and the Bible. The influence of von Balthasar is evident here in his argument that priests need to start from scripture and that preaching above all must be biblical rather than starting from experience. It was fascinating that one of his favorite biblical scholars is N.T. Wright, who fuses scholarship and preaching. He describes a good sermon as one that "allows you to see the world with Biblical eyes."

A whole chapter is given over to "obstacles to the faith" ranging from the idea of God to issues of human sexuality to the clergy sexual abuse scandals that rocked the church. Concerning human sexuality, his concern for teleology and not simply rule keeping is evident:

"What the teaching is trying to do is to move people into the stance of more radical and complete self-gift, which in the Catholic view, includes not just unity and friendship but procreation and the gift of life. When that sexual ideal is held up uncompromisingly, you're going to get teachings against anything that would undercut procreation and the gift of life. That will strike some people as extreme. Yet the Church is also extreme in its mercy as it reaches out to, accompanies, walks with and understands gay people. For someone who has a gay orientation, is all that a massively difficult thing to integrate? Yes, absolutely, and we have to be sensitive to that. Do we need shepherds who are willing to walk with and accompany gay people? Yes, as Pope Francis always says. 'How far do we go?' All the way, all the way, but without dialing down the moral demand, the moral ideal. I think that's the thing."

Barron deals candidly with the sexual abuse scandals and also outlines the steps he took as a seminary rector in the screening of candidates for the priesthood.

The concluding two chapters bring us up to the present as we see both Barron the bishop and Barron as he wrestles with how a ministry might become a movement. This last chapter was tantalizing as it considered other Catholic movements, and what it would take for Word on Fire to become another movement. We're left

wondering if it will happen.

What was fascinating to me in this account were several things. One is that Barron is unashamed to speak of evangelization and seeking the conversion of people to the faith. Another was the focus on the person and work of Christ as central to the message of the church. I was also intrigued by his arguments against "dumbing down" the church's teaching and that kids who can summarize the plots of Star Wars and remember the strange names of characters, should easily be able to do the same with the Bible. Finally, his appreciation of the role of the goodness and beauty of the life of the church in preparing hearts for truth, that is, the demonstration of truth in life and history, coupled with a vibrantly articulation of that truth that does not lapse into subjectivity or relativism, is a bracing combination that challenges the banal sameness of contemporary "seeker sensitive" evangelicalism.

Barron and other Catholics of the new evangelization seem to be moving toward some of the very things American evangelicals are moving away from that once were hallmarks of their movement. We often seem squeamish about evangelism and conversion, about the Bible, the cross, and a bracing call to high ethical standards that reflect the ends toward which we have been saved. Barron, while thoughtful and engaging and gracious does not seem squeamish about any of this. Might there be something we could learn from the Bishop?

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received a complimentary review copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

Julie Davis says

I loved this book. It's a quick read that left me enthusiastic about spreading the faith and inspired in my own faith. In fact, within one day of beginning to read I was quoting it around the house and changing my own actions based on the inspirations. I expected to learn more about Barron's life and ministry but not that it would begin to change me.

That's the quick take. Here's the longer version.

I'm a fan of Bishop Barron's homilies and his Catholicism documentary series which was shown on PBS stations around the country. But what he's really known for, and where he got his social media start, is his YouTube videos where he talks about everything from baseball to movies to Catholic doctrine. This has drawn an audience ranging from faithful Catholics to angry atheists. So he's a pro at discussing the beauty and truth of Catholicism with a diverse crowd.

This book looks at both Barron's life and his philosophy behind "proclaiming the Gospel in a secular age." It is the result of twenty hours of interviews conducted by John L. Allen, Jr., who is an acclaimed Catholic author and journalist. I was really looking forward this book — and it lived up to my expectations. As you can see from my opening paragraph here.

Barron discusses leading people into a "space where they may be ready to hear and embrace those truths" by remembering that what you're trying to do is introduce them to friendship with Jesus. He talks about the fact that his enthusiasm is because he's trying to bring something positive into people's lives - that he's so on fire about the truth of Catholicism that he can't stop from sharing it because he wants everyone to have the goodness he experiences. He talks about finding the role God has designed for us in life, much as a character

in a novel finds they are key to the plot even if they aren't a "main" character. And there is love of Scripture, of how beauty shows truth, and much more.

All these things resonated with me and some of them were vivid reminders at times when I needed a pick me up or a good point in a discussion with a friend.

I think you'll find those things in here too. Highly recommended.

Tom LA says

If you are interested in what the Catholic Church in the U.S. has to offer at its best and its most intelligent, look no further than Bishop Robert Barron. Not only I am catholic, but I also love Barron's style, so I'm giving this book 5 stars without a doubt.

Bishop Barron's YouTube videos and his Word on Fire ministry are one of the best modern communication channels of Catholicism that I know of.

This book reads like a long interview to Barron, summarizing his most impactful speeches, videos and homilies. The chapters are lean and engaging, spanning from theology to philosophy to secularism and atheism.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/wordonfi...>

Ken Madsen says

Bishop Barron's latest book examines his philosophy on the "new evangelization" of the Catholic Church. It is written by John Allen based on interviews he had with Bishop Barron. The subtitle "Proclaiming the Gospel in the Secular Age" captures the intent of the book. Bishop Barron has a deep love of Catholicism and he believes the countercultural message of Jesus Christ is just as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. He uses the analogy of when he fell in love with Bob Dylan's music. He wanted to share this love with everyone he met. This is the same approach he takes when evangelizing the love of Christ.

As with music, Bishop Barron believes it is through the transcendence of beauty that one can move people towards the goodness and the truth of Catholicism. As he states when he first heard Dylan on the "Concert for Bangladesh" album: "I'd never heard of him, but the crowd went berserk....I was particularly blown away by" A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall." The language, the voice, the people responding to it..that was it." He uses the cases of Catholic beauty as the first step in the evangelization process. In the book, he expounds on literature (Brideshead Revisted), great cathedrals (Chartres), music and movies such as A Man for All Seasons, Ben-Hur and Gran Torino. The latter he states is "one of the most Christological movies ever made"

With beauty as the first step, he expounds on goodness and truth. He uses the saints, especially the martyrs to introduce the concept of Catholic goodness. With regards to the truth of Catholic teachings, Barron spends time on what he calls "beige Catholicism", a watered-down version of the faith, prevalent after Vatican 2. In his words, "It's a Catholicism that's become bland, apologetic, unsure of itself, hand-wringing, overly accommodating, that's allowed it's distinctive color to blend into beige, so that it's hard to distinguish it form other religions and the wider culture." He believes this to be a major factor for the poor formation of

most Catholics and their lukewarm attitude towards the faith.

His Word on Fire ministry initially started as a way to interact in the public square as he produced YouTube videos to discuss issues and to present a Catholic perspective. He then goes on to produce his series “Catholicism”, which becomes his chef d’oeuvre of new evangelization. He also covers many of the obstacles to the new evangelization and his hope for his ministry to become a movement.

Bishop Barron is a great promoter for the Catholic faith. His deep knowledge has impressed even the most diehard atheist. Through this book, one gains a good understanding for his mission.
