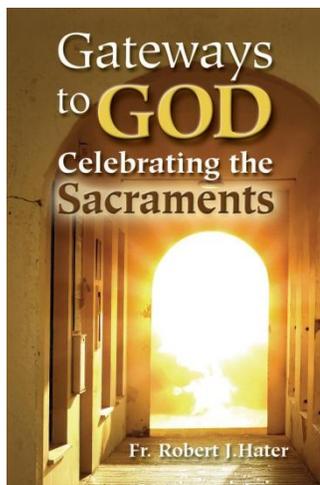


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## Earthly happiness accessed through ‘gateways to God’

HUNTINGTON, Indiana, December 5, 2011 – Perhaps the most elusive worldly aim is that of “happiness.” Many pursue success, money, status, possessions, even certain associations and alliances, in search of an ultimate sense of security and well-being. And still ... they’re never quite “there” while they’re here.

If the key to happiness ultimately rests in God, as Scripture says, how can people feel satisfaction in this unpredictable, volatile earthly life?

“Those who believe in God and embrace Jesus are truly happy, because they live in the continual realization of being loved,” says Cincinnati priest and theologian, Fr. Robert J. Hater, whose latest book explores how each of the Catholic Church’s seven sacraments work as gateways to happiness ... now and eternally.

“Everyone needs to feel accepted, understood, and loved,” says Fr. Hater. “The root of feeling loved goes beyond what’s happening with someone’s family, friends, employment, associates, or neighbors,” he says. “God knows our earthly struggle is not easy and we contend with constant difficulty and opposition. He provides us unfailing love and support – *even if we don’t get it anywhere else* – through His presence in the sacraments.” That is why someone who clings to God through the sacraments, though his life may appear hopeless and impossible, is really truly happy, says Fr. Hater. That person becomes a walking contradiction to the life he lives – he has the grace and perseverance to endure and live in serenity.

**Gateways to God: Celebrating the Sacraments** explores the nature and individuality of each sacrament. Using Scripture, history, and pastoral practice, Fr. Hater shows the faithful how to approach each of the seven sacraments of the Church as gateways to earthly happiness as well as to divine life, how to receive them with expectant faith, and how to let them strengthen a person for effectual daily living.

### About the Author

Robert J. Hater, Ph.D., a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, is widely respected for his extensive work in catechetics and religious education. He has written many books and is a well-known, internationally acclaimed lecturer in ministry, evangelization, catechesis, and spirituality.

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