

*Rutilio Grande, SJ: Homilies and Writings.* By Rutilio Grande, SJ. Ed., trans., and annotated by Thomas M. Kelly. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2015. Pp. xxiii + 163. \$19.95.

During a friend's funeral Mass in El Salvador in 1977, Archbishop Oscar Romero declared that "the message of Fr. Rutilio Grande is of highest importance to us" (137). The importance of Grande's message, Kelly argues, should continue for the Catholic Church, particularly in North America. The Jesuit had urged Catholics to move beyond mere charity to a "servant leadership" to address the causes of social problems. K. has followed his biography of Grande (*When the Gospel Grows Feet*, 2013) with this edited, translated, and annotated collection of the priest's writings and homilies as well as Romero's homily. But it is Grande's voice and spirit that K. successfully recovers here.

The five homilies and publications demonstrate Grande's impressive ability to accommodate his message to different audiences. K. describes, in detail, each item's "historical context" and provides extended "commentary" with discussion questions. This volume is not quite a companion to K.'s monograph, as the overlap is considerable: similar themes are examined in both. The account of Grande's death here comes verbatim from the biography's introduction, and the source for two chapters is an appendix in the biography. Readers will also encounter a lot of K.'s voice. The editor's guidance is often helpful, though, as with the first selection, a difficult article Grande wrote for an academic journal. K. has clear affection for his subject—"Rutilio"—and believes his voice should inform Catholics' actions today. (This urgency might explain the text's rushed feeling.) If Grande is a model for change, K. concedes he is also a cold reminder of its potential costs. After a fellow priest's expulsion from El Salvador, Grande spoke in the small village where the cleric had ministered. There it was "dangerous to be truly Catholic," for, he explained, "in Christianity one must be willing to give his or her life in service for a just order, in order to save others, for the values of the Gospel" (117, 120). One month later, assassins killed Grande and two others. Still, those who believe the church must change to fix social injustices will profit from the message of this fine volume's voice.

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*Youth Sports and Spirituality: Catholic Perspectives.* Edited by Patrick Kelly, SJ. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 2015. Pp. viii + 308. \$37.

Kelly has collected 15 articles on youth sports, written by a varied group of experts who are university professors, coaches, or administrators of youth sports programs. Kelly himself provides an introduction that contextualizes the topic, plus an article on youth sports and spirituality, and a summary that successfully pulls together the varied perspectives and approaches.

The first major section of this collection, “Research Based and Theoretical Perspectives,” deals with a variety of concepts—historical, philosophical, psychological, theological—that relate to youth sports. At stake is the etymology of the word “competition,” a combination of Latin for *com* (with) and *petere* (to seek). Seeking athletic excellence, whatever the sport, occurs in the company of other people. That understanding forms a base from which the writers explore and describe the ideal and the realities of youth sports.

The second major section, “Practices and Perspectives,” contains practical approaches for integrating the religious elements of human experience into athletic competition among young people who are in the developmental stage of their lives. Illustrations of successful and unsuccessful practices bring these suggestions to life. The articles include ideas about how parents and coaches can help youth to incorporate the capacity for self-transcendence into their athletic experience. Edward Hastings (a professor of theology and spirituality at Villanova University) even includes an Ignatian examination of consciousness for coaches and parents, with a helpful list of points to consider when engaging in this spiritual practice.

As K. points out in the introduction, the articles move around four basic points related to youth sports: intrinsic rewards of participation in competition, the “human and spiritual significance of play,” the presupposition that “grace builds on nature” in athletics, and the centrality of community in team sports. These authors do well in addressing these points.

This book will serve well all who are connected with youth sports—parents, coaches, athletic directors, physical education teachers, youth ministers, and others. Although the articles are written from a Catholic perspective, they will be helpful to all persons seeking to help young people through sports programs.

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