Christian theology primer provides ‘readable’ studies

By SALI McSHERRY

Natalie Kertes Weaver, chairwoman of Ursuline College Religious Studies Department, has recently published her third book, "Christian Thought and Practice: A Primer."

The book is an introduction to Christian theology for use as a textbook in beginning level courses in Christian theology, she said. It is also intended to serve as a supplemental reference text for higher-level theology courses or comparative religion courses where background knowledge of Christian thought and practice is required.

In an editorial review, Conrad Gromada, Ursuline College professor of religious studies, said, “Imagine an introductory college text on religious studies in Christianity that is amazingly readable both for Christians of all denominations and for those who simply want to know more about Christianity but do not want to be ‘talked down to.’ From the outset, the author of this brilliant little book, just 200 pages, demonstrates herself to be an experienced teacher of students from a range of religious and not-so-religious backgrounds.”

Mr. Gromada said, “Dr. Weaver has listened carefully to her students and has struggled along with them to understand what Christianity is all about.”

Inspiration for this book came from the needs of her students. “I felt the available texts introducing Christian theology were too heavy for students to read and enjoy. I wanted to develop a resource that would have all the necessary information students require without burdensome excesses. I write largely in response to my own needs as a teacher, so this book is really a product of my experience teaching Christian theology at Ursuline College,” Dr. Weaver said.

The author currently teaches a wide range of courses in theology and religion at Ursuline College. She holds degrees in classical languages, philosophy and ethics and completed her doctorate with a dissertation on feminist theology from Loyola University.

Dr. Weaver's other published books are "Babies First Latin" and "Marriage and Family: A Christian Theological Foundation."

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