

CIORRA, Anthony, *Thomas Merton: A Spiritual Guide for the Twenty-First Century* (Rockville, MD: Now You Know Media, 2011) (4 CDs) \$119.95.

GOERGEN, Donald, *A Retreat with Thomas Merton* (Rockville, MD: Now You Know Media, 2011) (2 CDs) \$25.95.

It is comforting to see that 45 years after his death, Thomas Merton continues to attract new readers (or, perhaps, consumers of his message, considering the way ideas are now disseminated). NowYouKnowMedia.com, the company which now distributes Merton's classroom lectures delivered at the Abbey of Gethsemani, is also offering sets of lectures about Merton distributed on compact disks and MP3 files.

Rev. Anthony Ciorra recorded twelve lectures on four CDs for *Thomas Merton: A Spiritual Guide for the Twenty-First Century*. This would be ideal for those newly introduced to Merton's life and works or those looking for a refresher course. The lectures, offered in a friendly, inviting delivery, provide listeners with enough context to understand Merton's spirituality, the value he found in journaling and solitude, and how seeds planted by his work with Catherine de Hueck Doherty and others came to fruition in his advocacy for social justice and interreligious dialogue. Ciorra effectively builds his case that Merton's reflections on life and faith are as applicable today as they were in the mid-twentieth century. A fifth CD contains a study guide that offers questions for reflection; careful proofreading would have avoided elementary errors like "Carthusians", "Gethsemane" or Gregory of Nyssa's "epektesis."

If Ciorra's lectures could be categorized as introductory, then Rev. Donald Goergen's set of six conferences would be more suited to those interested in studying Merton on an advanced level. As indicated in his program notes, the two CDs follow "more of a retreat format than a systematic presentation of a particular individual's thought." Goergen's emphatic and enthusiastic delivery examines Merton's philosophy of solitude, his study of Zen, work for peace, his correspondence, and the flash of insight Merton gained at the corner of Fourth and Walnut in Louisville. The third CD contains a study guide that is helpful, but not without glaring errors such as the date of Merton's entrance into Gethsemani, spelling the name of the Abbey two different ways on two consecutive lines, and mangling the title of the second lecture, referring to it erroneously as "New *Scenes* of Contemplation."

This writer hopes to see more of these recorded lectures in the future, making Merton more accessible to busy commuters and others who, because of the pressure to *make* a living, have little leisure time left to actually *live* and read.

Robert Grip