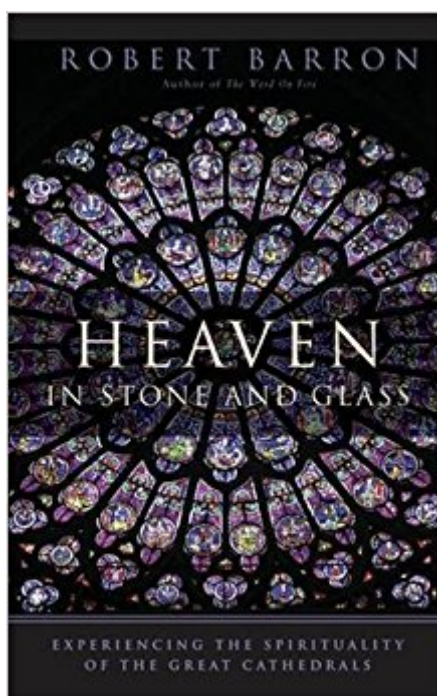


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# Heaven In Stone And Glass: Experiencing The Spirituality Of The Great Cathedrals



## Synopsis

Like a mystical tome awaiting to be deciphered, a Gothic cathedral holds many secrets about the soul's yearning for God. In *Heaven in Stone and Glass*, Catholic priest and professor of theology at Mundelein Seminary in Chicago teaches us how to read these secrets, with beautiful reflections on aspects such as light and darkness, the labyrinth, the meaning of gargoyles and demons, and the imagery of vertical space. Whether you are preparing for a pilgrimage to York Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, or looking ahead to inspirational bedside reading, this book is the perfect guide.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Barron, a priest and professor at Mundelein Seminary, has produced a deeply personal and deeply engaging guide to the experience of the medieval or medieval-style cathedral. His is not a scholarly treatment but rather a kind of staged walk around the cathedral with the reader, drawing spiritual sustenance from the features of the building: stillness from the Rose Window, sense of the inhabited cosmos from the tympana, and so forth. Barron's treatment is direct and even vulnerable but not naive: he acknowledges the painful ambiguities of the presence of Jewish prophets in the cathedral's sculptures and makes reference to figures as au courant as John Lennon and Alasdair MacIntyre. A charming and appealing volume; highly recommended. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Barron's mission is much the same as John Drury's in *Painting the Word* [BKL D 15 99]: to open a

window on the symbolism of Christian art. Whereas Drury aimed to enrich appreciation of paintings, Barron unveils the symbolism of those triumphs of the art of Christendom, the Gothic cathedrals. Exemplifying primarily from Notre-Dame de Paris and Chartres, he discusses 14 features of a cathedral, including space, light, and orientation (e.g., the verticality of every major line in the building), as well as tangible features, such as the rose windows and the labyrinth on the floor at Chartres. Besides what a feature symbolizes--for instance, the cathedral's interior space represents the womb of Our Lady, a place of safety and comfort--Barron explains the doctrinal rationale and implications of the feature's significance. He does the latter so literately and congenially that the little book makes fine devotional as well as informational reading. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This inspiring and informational book explores the relationship of how the Gothic Cathedrals with their lofty arched vaulting of stone and beautiful translucent rose windows portraying pages from Scripture formed a catechism of the Faith for the illiterate medieval mind. Even the use of allegorical figures contributed to this fascinating study! All of the senses are saturated in this spiritual environment whose cohesive, Christian Guilds were the master craftsmen of their own time, providing not only the best architects, artisans and builders but also a massive employment project that rivalled even the pyramids as wonders of another spiritual imperative of a truly great age. Awesome!

This is a great little book. Of course anything by Fr. Robt. Barron is worth reading. Only thing is have a dictionary near because I had to look up a couple dozen words which I didn't know. Gives you a great insight into the Chartres and Notre Dame magnificent cathedrals. Some pictures, too. They really are splendid. Wish I could visit them in person. I had one copy and gave it away so had to buy another; I read it again and already lent it to a friend.

Heaven in Stone and Glass is another excellent book by Fr. Barron. Once again he has been able to find a refreshing way to marry traditional religious practices/beliefs with the post-modern need for spirituality to take us beyond simple traditional practice. He provides us with an understandable vision of the function and focus of the architects who created these beautiful and elaborate edifices which glorify God. I recommend this book both for individuals and for small group studies.

The book arrived in perfect condition and within the time frame specified. I am very satisfied with the book and with the seller. Superb discussion of the gothic incarnation of the gospel in the stone and artwork of a gothic church/cathedral.

I not only learned a lot about the great cathedrals, but I also encountered the God in whose Faith these cathedrals were built. What more can you ask from a book?

Typically thoughtful and insightful reflection from Father Barron. I will not visit a cathedral without thinking about the beauty and meaning described in this book.

Nice for pre-Paris trip.

Amazing!

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