



The Catholic Hipster Handbook: Rediscovering Cool Saints, Forgotten Prayers, and Other Weird but Sacred Stuff

Tommy Tighe, Jeannie Gaffigan (Foreword)

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Being a Catholic Hipster is all about an attitude—an attitude grounded in being part of a countercultural community of believers dedicated to something bigger than themselves in a world dominated by self-centeredness. It's about yearning to learn more about the faith by seeking out "Catholic cool"—overlooked saints, forgotten prayers and feast days, and traditional practices long set aside by mainstream believers. *The Catholic Hipster* podcaster Tommy Tighe will help readers rediscover everything awesome about the Catholic faith.

The Catholic Hipster started out in 2014 with a little bit of fun—the Catholic Hipster of the Year contest—on Tighe's blog. But Twitter is where—in all its 140-character glory—that Tighe's "The Catholic Hipster" movement really took root. That's where a group of cool and funky countercultural Catholics gather to swap one-liners, hilarious hipster memes, and all things authentically Catholic.

Tighe even met comedienne Jeannie Gaffigan, who wrote the foreword for *The Catholic Hipster Handbook*, on Twitter. She said what drew her to the feed was that Tighe was "an embarrassingly Catholic dude who knew he was embarrassingly Catholic and was not embarrassed by it" and that he was "not preachy or judgey or divisive." Catholic hipsters in a nutshell.

Tighe and a group of hipster friends—including Sarah Vabulas, Anna Mitchell, Fr. Kyle Schnippel, and Lisa M. Hendey—explore the beautiful weirdness of the Catholic Church and invite others along for the journey. They share their love for extraordinary saints, offer up obscure prayers, provide short reflections on something quirky and Catholic they've rediscovered, and dare readers to put their faith into action with some cool and challenging practices they can do on their own.

Discover what's awesome about:

- Wearing a scapular
- Applying *Laudato Si'* at your local farmer's market
- Hanging with priests, monks, and nuns
- Learning to see Christ in making beer
- Praying the Rosary everywhere you go
- Loving the Latin Mass
- Making the Liturgy of the Hours a daily part of your routine

The Catholic Hipster Handbook will help readers realize the only way to go against what's normal and accepted in the culture is to be authentically Catholic.

The Catholic Hipster Handbook: Rediscovering Cool Saints, Forgotten Prayers, and Other Weird but Sacred Stuff Details

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From Reader Review The Catholic Hipster Handbook: Rediscovering Cool Saints, Forgotten Prayers, and Other Weird but Sacred Stuff for online ebook

Rachel Vryhof says

Lots of food for thought! Easily read in quick bites and lots of suggested actionable ideas. Definitely a book to return to as you implement the different activities into your own life. Some of the humor in the book veered more "dad jokes" than hipster cool, but maybe I'm not enough of a hipster to know what's cool? Overall a nice break from heavy theology tomes.

Hannah says

(I received a free advance copy from Net Gallery in exchange for an honest review.)

This was an entertaining, funny and really accessible (which I appreciated, since I myself am not Catholic) read that I found much more relatable than I expected (having grown up in a religious household). I loved hearing from all the different perspectives that people had, and it left me really wanting to read more on Catholic Church history.

Cece says

This book was such a joy. I learned some new (old) things and LOLED several times.

I will definitely reread and recommend to others!

Jenny Houle says

I received a free ARC of this book from NetGalley for an unbiased opinion.

Let's face it...there's no good way to give a completely unbiased opinion about religion or hipsters. I went into this book with a disgruntled opinion based on childhood experiences regarding those I saw within places of power in the Catholic church abusing their power, and when I think "hipster"...I just cringe.

So how did I walk away giving it a four out of five star review? Well, honestly, because it jolted a lot of things into place for me:

1) It reminded me that what drove me from Catholicism was the actions of a few select people, not the religion as a whole. As the only Christian religion to recognize saints, there's a lot of great people in the religion, too. I loved the stories of the different saints as a child, and this book helped remind me of some of those.

- 2) Each section of the book includes a "forgotten prayer". Some of them were absolutely beautiful to me and touched things I should be saying to God on a regular basis, even as a Christian who isn't Catholic.
- 3) Each section also included an activity to further a reader's understanding of the chapter. Some of them were easier to accomplish than others, but it was engaging to follow those along.
- 4) The book made it incredibly easy to see links between Christianity, and Catholicism, and many of the "hipster traits". From sandaled feet to scraggly beards, the reasons behind them are actually in the BIBLE, and it's a conversation starter right there before you.

Lisa says

Do you know about all the coolest Catholic Twitterers, the best Catholic music, the loveliest prayers and the most interesting Catholic blogs? This handbook by Tommy Tighe will help you find all of these! It's not just a frivolous guide, however. It also contains articles about important Catholic doctrines and history, and it's worth keeping whether you are a cradle Catholic, a convert or even undecided! I greatly enjoyed it. I am not sure about going to a Tridentine Mass, however. Although it sounds interesting, it's a hard idea to get used to. This section did remind me that my parents were shocked that the Mass was in Latin until recently, and I liked the thought of going to a service in Latin when I was a child!

I especially liked the fact that one of the authors reminded readers that the first duty of a Catholic (and, arguably all Christians) is to give.

I received this free ebook from Net Galley in return for an honest review.

Paperback

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Patrícia says

It may not be a page turner as a whole (although it is within chapters), but that is because each chapter has a unique theme for its essay, and most of them seem to be made especially for us. Some of them can be really thoughtful. Others are more fun. Every and each of them is very informal, filled with life, and a very simple language, easy to understand and to extract some laughs.

I just realized that this book is also a prayer book and that each time I read it I would pray, because of the Forgotten Prayers, so, there's that, too.

Sometimes I just wish that the chapters would be longer and forward us to other books, movies, or websites, to let us explore more about its theme. I guess this is part of its concept, though. And I can't wait to share its essays with other people, in retreats, in Youth Groups, anything, really, because I think this is made for it, it's very good to introduce or rediscover some weird but sacred stuff!

PS: I wish they'd make a translation of this or at least export to Portuguese bookshops

Cathy says

This is an excellent collection for Catholics that want to deepen their faith, no matter what their age! The fact that it is written for young people encourages me in the future of our faith. There are things in this book that I am just now beginning to appreciate and I am far past being a twenty something. I just wish I had this book earlier in my life.

I highly recommend this to anyone in search of a deeper faith.

Barb says

Packed with plenty of Catholic inside baseball without making the reader feel unworthy, this book won't teach you how to be a cool Catholic. Instead, it revels in what's cool about being Catholic and invites the reader to revel in it too. Tommy Tighe gathered together 15 cool Catholics, many of whom you'll find speaking and tweeting and writing and hosting Catholic radio shows, to help put this handbook together. Read my full review.

Jaime K says

This is a fun compilation of what exactly makes one a Catholic Hipster.

Each 'chapter' is broken into 4 subsections: Random information from the author, a "Cool Saint," a forgotten prayer (typically related to the saint and/or topic), and an activity for the reader. For the authors whose voices I know (radio, podcasts, etc.), I could even hear them in my head as I read.

A few things jumped out to me:

- Saint Epaphras, whom I didn't think I'd ever heard of, is in the Bible.
- Sergio Bermudez's Catholic slang made me laugh.
- The Francis de Sales prayer
- Melissa Keating's tunes (which I need to look more into)
- Sarah Vabulas' info on scapulars
- Lisa Hende's must-have apps (some of which I have, and one I downloaded to replace another app)
- Anna Mitchell's info on the old calendar (which I didn't even know about...and a lot of the info was new to me)
- Arlene Spencey on being a Catholic in a Protestant private school (a story I freaking loved)

I've learned I'm not a Catholic hipster and yet I wouldn't feel out of place among them, standing off to the

side and laughing along with the conversations.
And then leaning in to learn more about my faith.

Laura says

I have friends that talk about having found their 'tribe' or 'people.' Reading this title has me realizing I AM a Catholic Hipster. And, several of my friends are too.

While the cover and title seems a bit carefree, what you will find inside is not. Everything is presented in a manner that has you wanting to dig deeper, especially when it comes to the 'cool' saints.

I enjoyed this so much that I was sharing on my FB wall to friends after just the first few chapters.

Note ~ I did get a copy from Netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Nicole says

This is the book I've been looking for.

A great and informative read about being Catholic with a sense of humor in the modern world. Learned lots of new prayers, saints, and how to get out of the Catholic rut. Loved it from beginning to end!

Amy Palma says

I'm still trying to decide if I enjoyed this book or did not enjoy this book. The title is misleading as I certainly did not find this book to be anything close to a "handbook." I did find I spent a lot of time on the internet trying to learn more about the "weird but sacred stuff" and the "cool saints." The book touches upon the subjects but does not spend enough time developing those topics to teach or be considered a handbook. Each section has its own "Activity" associated with it that is sure to help me "rediscover everything awesome about the Catholic faith." Honestly, they are pretty cool and caused me to reflect. With all that being said, the book obviously intrigued me enough to want to learn more and opened a great discussion with my Catholic church book group.

Carolyn says

I enjoyed the brevity and variety of these selections as well as the format - topic, cool saint, forgotten prayer, and activity. It made for an easily digestible handbook!

Like many collections, this one was a mixed bag. Some contributions I loved, some I learned from, and a couple struck me as condescending/snobby (which I guess shouldn't surprise me if written from a self-identifying hipster ;-)).

I listened on audiobook, and while the narration was good, I think I would've have enjoyed having the paperback alongside so that I could refer to authors, prayers, and other details.

A good introduction to the sometimes-weird aspects of Catholicism, both for converts and revert. Or anyone who wants to dig a little deeper in their faith.

Sarah Elizabeth says

This was a fun playful book about all things Catholic from confession to the blessed Mother to obscure saints and Catholic baby names. It was a fun read and I loved the format of the chapters - a short reflection on the topic, a relevant obscure saint, a related prayer, and a fun activity. I found this book clever and engaging for both Catholics and those who'd like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

I received a complimentary copy of the book to review from the publisher and NetGalley.

Steven R. McEvoy says

This book was not exactly what I was expecting. I had seen it mentioned by so many people that I was certain it would be something I would like and purchased it without realizing that it is an anthology with 12 contributors when you included Tommy. Sort of a modern-day group of apostles.

The contributors are:

Leticia Ochoa Adams

Sr. Brittany Harrison

Lisa M. Hendey

Steven Lewis

Anna Mitchell

Mary Rezac

Fr. Kyle Schnippel

Arleen Spenceley

Katherine Morna Towne

Sarah Vabulas

Tiffany Walsh

And the sections in this book are:

Foreword by Jeannie Gaffigan

Introduction

Part One: Rediscover the Attitude

Part Two: Rediscover the Stuff

Part Three: Rediscover the Life

Part Four: Rediscover the Attraction

Conclusion

Acknowledgments

Notes

About the Contributors

Each chapter follows the same format, the main article, cool saint, forgotten prayer, and activity. When I first started reading this book I could not tell if it was satire, sarcastic, or real devotion. My wife often comments that sarcasm is lost on me so it took me a few chapters to figure it out. In the end I found I really enjoyed the book at took it at face value. I give it a solid 4/5 stars. And it took a few days to settle on that rating. I read fairly widely, and I read a lot, but I was unfamiliar with most of the contributors prior to reading this book. I have started following a few of the contributors on social media because of their contributions to this book.

I have known a few Catholic Hipsters, going back to a college and Careers group at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Kingston Ontario in the late 80's and early 90's. Hipsters before being a hipster was cool. What I loved most about this book was that it comments on several trends in the Catholic community today, some that are growing and others with longer standing. I really appreciated the section 'Forgotten Prayer' and also 'Cool Saint' the activity sections are good also.

This book comes across for the most part as a fun playful read. It pokes a little fun at certain traditions or practices but not in an irreverent manner. It has some interesting activities to try, either personally or in a group. It would be really intriguing to work through this book with a group of friends and find where it really connects with readers and where it misses the mark.

This is an easy read and very accessible. I would say it is even accessible for teens and tweens. So, could be a good study for a youth group. What I loved most were the prayers and saints presented. Overall a very refreshing read, particularly during this time of conflict within the church. So give it a read and figure out where you end up on the hipsters scale or tribes.

Read the review on my blog Book Reviews and More.

Note: This book is part of a series of reviews: 2018 Catholic Reading Plan!
