



We, the Ordinary People of the Streets (Ressourcement: Retrieval & Renewal in Catholic Thought)

By Madeleine Delbr el



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Preface by Hans Urs von Balthasar

One woman's shining example of Christian social action.

We, the Ordinary People of the Streets contains a series of powerful reflections by Madeleine Delbr el (1904-1964), an award-winning poet, writer, and Catholic layperson whose conviction and insight led her to a life of social work in the atheistic, Communist-dominated city of Ivry-sur-Seine, France.

In these posthumously published texts, Delbr el draws from her own experiences living in Ivry, witnessing to the possibility of a life at once rooted radically in the church and fully engaged in the world. Spanning the whole of Delbr el's life—from a piece she wrote as a seventeen-year-old atheist to an essay on the Christian life written just before her death—these passionate literary texts explore the Christian's role in a secular society, the difficulty of faith in an atheistic environment, the need for prayer, the centrality of the church, and the fundamental importance of loving both God and our neighbors.

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We, the Ordinary People of the Streets (Ressourcement: Retrieval & Renewal in Catholic Thought) By Madeleine Delbrel Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2087541 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company
- Published on: 2000-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .81" h x 6.02" w x 8.99" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 287 pages

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