

# **Catholic Neurotheology**

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Series in Philosophy of Religion



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## **Abstract**

The topic of “Neurotheology” has garnered increasing attention in the academic, religious, scientific, and popular worlds. Several books have been written addressing the relationship between the brain and religious experience, and numerous scholarly articles have been published on the topic. The popular press has also given significant attention to neurotheology, including major stories in *Newsweek*, *Time*, *The New Scientist*, *Readers Digest*, and *Popular Mechanics*. The scientific and religious communities have been highly interested in obtaining more information regarding neurotheology, how to approach this topic, and how science and religion can be integrated in some manner that preserves both.

However, there have been no extensive attempts at exploring more specifically how Catholic religious thought and experience may intersect with the brain and neuroscience. The purpose of *Catholic Neurotheology* is to engage this groundbreaking area fully. Topics are related to a neurotheological approach to the foundational beliefs that arise from Catholic learning from Scripture and Tradition, an exploration of the different elements of Catholicism, an exploration of specifically Catholic practices and rituals, and a review of Catholic mysticism. Specific Catholic scholars are considered in terms of the relationship between their ideas/teachings and different brain processes. *Catholic Neurotheology* engages these topics with the hope that readers, regardless of their background, will be able to understand the complexities and breadth of neurotheology from a Catholic perspective. More broadly, issues include a review of the neurosciences and neuroscientific techniques; religious and spiritual experiences; theological development and analysis; liturgy and ritual; epistemology, philosophy, and ethics; and social implications, all from a Catholic perspective.

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