



SORIN BOOKS® *Christian Classics*™ Forest of Peace

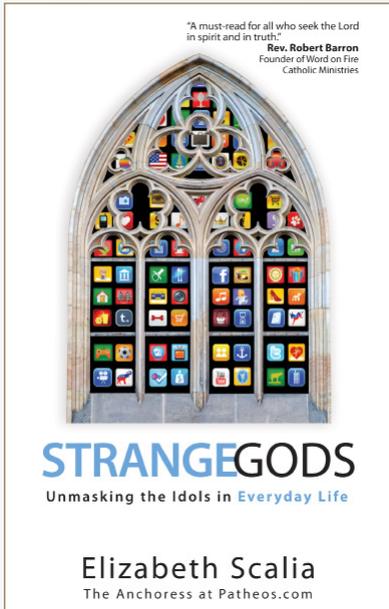
To schedule media interviews or to request images or review copies, contact:

**Amanda Skofstad, Publicist • 800.282.1865 x206 • Amanda.Skofstad.1@nd.edu**

Ave Maria Press, Inc. • P.O. Box 428 • Notre Dame, IN • 46556

**A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross**

## Scalia Helps Readers Spot Everyday Idols



**Notre Dame, IN**—Author Elizabeth Scalia, known in the blogosphere as The Anchoress of *Patheos*, gives readers a wake-up call in *Strange Gods*: we have become everyday idolators.

Scalia says that when we think about idols, we remember the story of the golden calf in Exodus. While today's idols are much different, they have become much more pervasive in everyday life: "Our present-day idols are much less obvious, but they are also less distant and more ingrained within us." And we often fail to recognize our own idols, Scalia adds: "While most of us today have a vague sense of when adulation of a person or thing becomes silly or even dangerous, we perhaps do not always truly understand when and where (and why) we fall into worshipping idols." We even deny that we could fall victim to the same thing Moses's followers did thousands of years ago, and we come up with excuses to justify our thoughts. Scalia says our thought process goes something like this: "Of course *we* cannot be idolators. We are refined and educated people. We have studied. We know our faith. We can recite our creed. We don't live in a time in which mere *things* are worshipped. We know that a silly golden calf cannot be a god—at least not our god—and we dismiss the notion from our minds."

**Strange Gods**  
*Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life*  
**By: Elizabeth Scalia**  
ISBN: 978-1-59471-342-2  
192 pages • \$14.95  
Personal Growth/Spirituality  
**Now Available**

Idols, Scalia says, remain, and ours originate in loves that become twisted and corrupted. She offers a few examples: "Ego and pride can push us to achieve excellence and a true sense of identity. But left unchecked or knocked out of balance, they can enslave us." Scalia tells us that almost everything can become an idol—anger, fitness, careers, and political beliefs.

Scalia reveals her own idols with readers to help them discover theirs. "I wish to share what I know in order to assist in clearing out all the cluttering self-created deities that stand before God and before us—between us and the satisfaction of our deepest longing, which is ecstatic union with our Creator." So how do we turn away from our idols and learn to live more faithfully? Scalia says the journey begins with identifying the idols we've hidden away, giving us an awareness of our tendency to create them unintentionally. Scalia reminds us to trust in God, who is always waiting.

"Elizabeth Scalia masterfully presents insights in regard to the first, and yet most frequently unobserved, of all the commandments: You shall have no other gods other than the one, true God. This book provides an important message for the culture and is a must-read for all who seek the Lord in spirit and in truth."

**Rev. Robert Barron**  
Founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries



SORIN BOOKS® *Christian Classics*™ Forest of Peace

To schedule media interviews or to request images or review copies, contact:

Amanda Skofstad, Publicist • 800.282.1865 x206 • [Amanda.Skofstad.1@nd.edu](mailto:Amanda.Skofstad.1@nd.edu)

Ave Maria Press, Inc. • P.O. Box 428 • Notre Dame, IN • 46556

A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross

## About the Author

Elizabeth Scalia is a Benedictine Oblate and managing Editor of the Catholic Channel at *Patheos.com*, where she blogs as The anchoress. She is also a columnist at *First Things* and for *The Catholic Answer*. Scalia was a featured speaker at the Vatican's much-noted 2011 meeting with bloggers from around the world and has a multi-media presence that includes contributions to NPR and CBS News Online and a stint as a regular panelist on the Brooklyn-diocese-produced current events program, *In the Arena*, seen at NETNY.net. She is the author of *Caring for the Dying with the Help of your Catholic Faith*, was a contributor to *Disorientation: How to Go to College Without Losing Your Mind*, and has been involved with the editing of both religious and secular books, most notably, *Why We Hate Us: American Discontent in the New Millennium*.



### From *Strange Gods*:

"The fascination and admiration of others is love, isn't it? Or close enough? It must be, because we know how much we ourselves are mesmerized by our favorite iThis and eThat and how much we love our favorite artist, our favorite politician, and our favorite sports figure. We can't get enough of our favorite website or our Twitter feed. Convinced that what has enticed us unto obsession is about love, we gather it all unto ourselves. We become encased within it until the God who is the source and giver of all love, all reality, and all truth—who actually does see how distinctly each and every one of us glows because he willed it—is hidden from view. He is like a forgotten gift, shoved to the back of a crowded mantel, which is crammed with shiny, empty things."

### Suggested Interview Questions:

- 1 How did you grow to discover your own idols?
- 2 What would you recommend as the first step toward turning away from idols?
- 3 How do we know when love becomes corrupted?
- 4 What makes today's idols so much more difficult to overcome than those of the past?



SORIN BOOKS® *Christian Classics*™ Forest of Peace

To schedule media interviews or to request images or review copies, contact:

**Amanda Skofstad, Publicist • 800.282.1865 x206 • Amanda.Skofstad.1@nd.edu**

Ave Maria Press, Inc. • P.O. Box 428 • Notre Dame, IN • 46556

**A Ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross**

## Praise for *Strange Gods*:

"Provocative, insightful, bold, inspiring, and faith-filled, Elizabeth Scalia's musings as The anchoress never fail to gain wide readership among Catholics of every stripe. She is committed to her faith, to her Church, and to God. She uses her considerable talents to share these commitments, and her joy in being Catholic, with others—online and now in print."

**James Martin, S.J.**

Author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*

"*Strange Gods* will leave you shocked by just how many things you've turned into idols and inspired to turn back to the only one who is really worthy of our worship. Thank you to Elizabeth Scalia for a much-needed wake-up call."

**Jennifer Fulwiler**

Blogger at *Conversion Diary*

"Creation is supposed to be sacramental: a window into and a rumor of the glory of God. But precisely because it's so beautiful, we can make the mistake of worshipping and serving created things instead of the Creator. We are like children who want the box and throw away the present on Christmas morning. Elizabeth Scalia shows us how to find the love and peace we've always really wanted, by turning away from idols to the living God made fully manifest in Jesus Christ."

**Mark P. Shea**

Author of *The Heart of Catholic Prayer*

"In her important and courageous new book, *Strange Gods*, Elizabeth Scalia presents us with a truth we avoid at our own peril: four thousand years after Yahweh declared, 'You shall have no other gods before me,' our own idol-making far outstrips that of the ancient world. A fascinating perspective on one of the most urgent spiritual problems of our era."

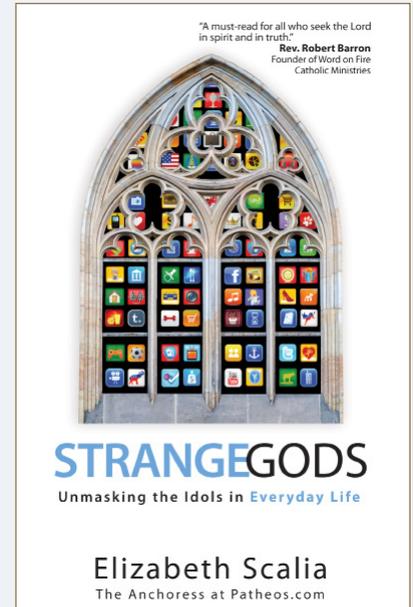
**Paula Huston**

Author of *Simplifying the Soul*

"Elizabeth Scalia is a true post-modern anchoress, writing with honesty what she has learned of God's mystery from within her digital cell. *Strange Gods* is a meditation on a perennial truth: all of us face the temptation of confusing God with our selves. Like her medieval ancestors in faith, this anchoress sees through the distractions that ensnare us and invites us to refocus our desire on what is most lasting—a rich, broad, deep understanding of love, and an equally rich, broad, and deep probing into the mystery of God."

**Tim Muldoon**

Coauthor of *Into the Deep*



**Strange Gods**

*Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life*

**By: Elizabeth Scalia**

ISBN: 978-1-59471-342-2

192 pages • \$14.95

Personal Growth/Spirituality

**Now Available**