

**An Interview with Angelo Matera**  
Editor of *Faith at the Edge: A New Generation of Catholic Writers*  
*Reflects on Life, Love, Sex, and Other Mysteries*  
A GodSpy Book

**What's unique about this anthology?**

I think what makes this book unique is how it transcends the conservative/liberal divide in the Church that gets so much attention in the media. It also appeals to the average intelligent and faithful Catholic who loves the Church yet has questions about what it teaches, and wants to know more about how to live a life of deep faith in today's world. Just about every writer in the book takes the authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals very seriously—from chastity, marriage, and contraception to issues of theology—while at the same time they're candid and realistic about the difficulties involved in living that sort of discipleship. They don't sugarcoat the reality of their lives with their brokenness and wounds or write propaganda.

**What inspired you to put together this anthology?**

The inspiration for the anthology is the same as that of the website I edit, [www.godspy.com](http://www.godspy.com), from which several of the essays come. I was interested in non-fiction writing that reflected the same sort of realistic faith found in an older generation of Catholic fiction writers like Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, and others. They were believing—and often times anguished—Catholics who, through their faith, revealed the truth about human existence in ways that challenged the preconceptions of both believers and non-believers. I don't think that this approach has ever been consistently applied to non-fiction to show, in a completely uncensored way, what the world is like from a genuinely Catholic perspective.

**But haven't there been plenty of books by Catholic seekers?**

Sure, but I wouldn't call most of the writers in this anthology seekers. I would say most of them have something that is very unfashionable now: certainty about their faith. They're as certain about their faith as the great mystics were, people like St. John of the Cross and St. Thérèse of Lisieux. But what they are less certain about—again, like those mystics—is their experience of God's presence, especially in a world where God is hidden or obscured.

**So these writers are not seekers?**

No not in the sense that it's commonly used today, where doubt has been elevated to the level of dogma, and faith without doubt is considered weak or false. But they are seekers in a different sense: they're seekers in search of the face of God, in their lives, and in the world.