

# Grace in the Desert

Awakening to the Gifts of Monastic Life

JOSSEY-BASS  
A Wiley Imprint

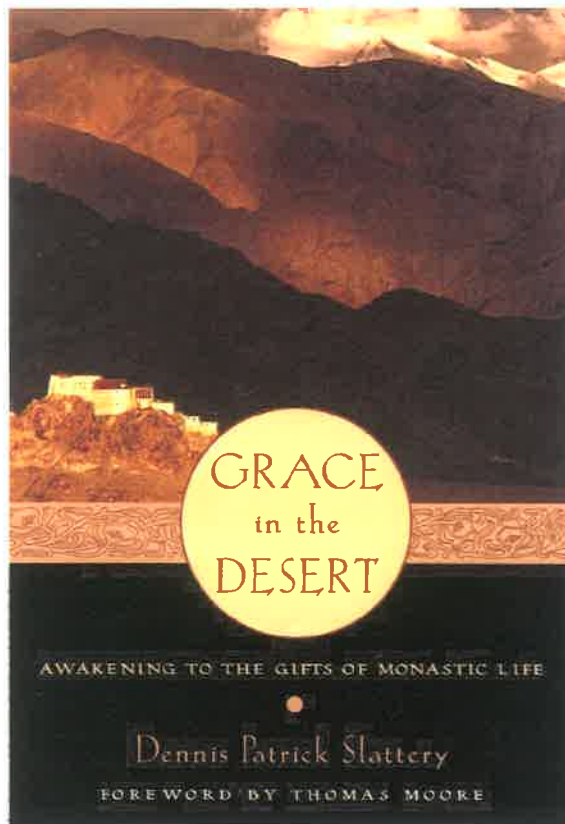
## ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this powerful book, travel along with Dennis Patrick Slattery as he sets off on a three-month pilgrimage, during which he struggles with his identity; his role as a father and husband, teacher and believer; as well as the life and death of his father. Throughout his stays at twelve monasteries and retreat centers, Slattery seeks the refuge of the monastic life where silence and solitude open an extraordinary window on the human soul. Against the backdrop of Slattery's personal story, *Grace in the Desert* offers vivid descriptions of monastic life and practice, Catholic, Orthodox, and Buddhist monasteries and retreat centers.

Slattery's journey evokes life's most profound questions and his rich Catholic heritage with wisdom drawn from contemporary and classic spiritual writers like Thomas Merton, Julian of Norwich, and Thich Nhat Hanh. *Grace in the Desert* clearly shows the subtle and often surprising

*Dennis Patrick Slattery*

*Foreword by Thomas Moore*



ways God speaks to us and how to become more spiritually fulfilled by opening to the richness of monastic life. He also reveals how a monastic attitude or disposition can be cultivated in moments of silent pauses to renew oneself during one's busy daily life. Slattery attempts to bring a monastic sense of space to the reader, which one can enter within or outside the structure of a formal retreat.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

DENNIS PATRICK SLATTERY is a poet and professor in the Mythological Studies Program at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, California. He has written over 200 articles and reviews for books, journals, magazines, and newspapers as well as authored and edited 7 books, including: *The Wounded Body*, *Psychology at the Threshold* and *Casting the Shadows*. Contact him at [dslattery@pacific.edu](mailto:dslattery@pacific.edu).

**"I hope that Dennis's fine, honest, beautiful book inspires readers to imitate him in their own way, to discover how deeply satisfying a life in the spirit can be."**

— From the foreword by Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul* and *Soul Mates* as well as his forthcoming book, *Dark Nights of the Soul*.

**"In this courageous journey of the heart, the author weaves his poetic reflections with the teachings of many writers. A stunning spiritual journey."**

— Maureen Murdock, author, *The Heroine's Journey*, *Unreliable Truth*, and *Monday Morning Memoirs*

*Grace in the Desert: Awakening to the Gifts of Monastic Life*

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