



FROM THE FORMATION TEAM *Mary Gough and Mary Dunne*

The Making of an Abbot - Would You Believe? DVD c. 25 mins.

This DVD features the circumstances surrounding the election of Mark Hederman as Abbot of Glenstal Abbey in Limerick. He has been a Benedictine monk there for over 40 years and has written numerous books on spirituality. (*I must be talking to myself; The Haunted Inkwell;*

Tarot: talisman or taboo?; Symbolism; Walkabout etc) Considered a bit of a maverick in the church and quite provocative in his opinions it was a great surprise that he was elected Abbot in Dec 2008. He and the community saw this as the work of the Holy Spirit and all have welcomed his election as the election of the prophet among them. He had to be ordained as priest before he became Abbot.

In this DVD he says *"I always tried to work out why I was thrown into this world without my permission 65 years ago, and I vowed to solve this problem before I was 40. I wanted to know what it meant to live fully in this world, whether I was Chinese or Muslim, man or woman, rich or poor"*.

All of his life has been based on a deep experience he had of the real presence of God in his life at age 9 years of age in a ring fort on his father's stud farm. His story has a freshness about it that is inspirational and uplifting and it is very rooted in reality. It is very easy to listen to and has interesting insights on our relationship with God, on theology and prayer, our relationship with the world around us, the feminine principle in life and the role of the priest/minister in today's world. It is well worth viewing.

(Copies available from the Formation Team)

Mary Gough

Passion for the Possible **Daniel J O'Leary**
(A spirituality of hope for the New Millennium)

The title of this book is an apt summary of what this book is about – the fierce desire to explore the potential for self esteem arising from our divine beauty, for a sense of our capacity for finding the healing the light in our dark moments, for a new appreciation of our God implanted creativity, and finally for our calling to redeem humanity before it is too late. (From cover of book not too lucid)

I found the early chapters on the Incarnation at the beginning of the book very helpful around Christmastide, embracing every aspect of our lives, also very enriching insights on the Sacraments and the various seasons of the liturgical year as well as the seasons of our lives.

Mary Dunne