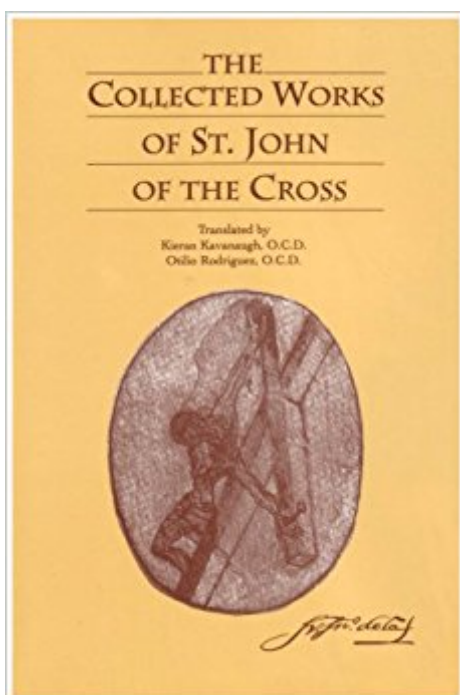


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# The Collected Works Of St. John Of The Cross



## Synopsis

This revised edition of *The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross* was produced to mark the fourth centenary of the death of St. John of the Cross (1542-1591). The result is an English translation of his writings that preserves the authentic meaning of the great mystic's writings, presents them as clearly as possible, and at the same time gives the reader the doctrinal and historical information that will lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the teachings of the Mystical Doctor. Included in *The Collected Works* are St. John's poetry, *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Dark Night*, *The Spiritual Canticle*, and *The Living Flame of Love*, as well as his extant letters and other counsels. In addition to the respective page listings in the contents, this new edition features gray page tabs that separate the individual works, enabling the reader to more easily locate a desired section of the book. Complementing St. John's writings are a comprehensive General Introduction for the entire work, as well as brief, enlightening introductions for each specific work, explaining theme and structure. These are enhanced by new and expanded footnotes, a glossary of terms, and general and scriptural indices.

**About the Translators**  
**Kieran Kavanaugh, O.C.D.** Father Kieran, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, made his profession as a Discalced Carmelite in 1947. He has held several important positions within the order, including prior, formation director, and provincial councilor. A founding member of the Institute of Carmelite Studies, he subsequently served as its chair, as well as publisher of ICS Publications. Father Kieran's major contributions in the field of Carmelite studies are his translations from the Spanish of the works of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, in collaboration with Father Otilio Rodriguez. He also was the English translator of *God Speaks in the Night: The Life, Times and Teaching of St. John of the Cross*, a pictorial biography of St. John of the Cross commemorating the 400th anniversary of his death, published in several languages. In addition to translations, Father Kieran is also the author of two ICS Publications study editions of the works of St. Teresa, and has written several other books on St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. Father Kieran has lectured and written widely on the teaching of both of these Carmelite saints. He is a member of the Discalced Carmelite community in Washington, D.C.

**Otilio Rodriguez, O.C.D.** Father Otilio was born in Mantinos, Palencia, Spain, and was a Carmelite for more than fifty years. He was provincial of the Burgos province several times and also served as rector of the Discalced Carmelites international pontifical theological faculty, the *Teresianum*, in Rome. Father Otilio was one of the founders of the *Institutum Historicum Teresianum* and was a member of the Institute of Carmelite Studies. Both internationally and throughout the United States he gave retreats and lectures on Carmelite history and spirituality and wrote extensively on Carmelite subjects. Father Otilio died in Rome in 1994.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An excellent and practical edition. --StudiumThis is an extremely worthwhile and classic resource for cultivating a deeper inner life. --Theological Students FellowshipThe Institute of Carmelite Studies publishes excellent works at very inexpensive prices; its exemplary edition of The Collected Works of Saint John of the Cross, for instance, would get my vote as one of the best theological buys of all time. --Lawrence Cunningham, U.S. Catholic

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Spanish

If you are interested in becoming a Third Order Carmelite, it's an exceptionally rich read. I'm still reading it very slowly, and as I'm disposed to becoming a secular Carmelite, the teachings have fueled my desire to serve through this Catholic order. Highly Recommend.

The Collected works of John of the Cross describe a privileged topography of the Ascent to the love of God. The reader is advised to follow the classic Carmelite advice and read the poetry first and perhaps the Living Flame or The Spiritual Canticle in order to see the heights that we are called to in our relationship with God. Perhaps one then will have the courage to delve into the Ascent of Mount Carmel and the Dark Night to see the God also speaks in what can appear to be the darkness of renunciation in our human experience. While many can become discouraged with his doctrine of

detachment this proves to be the surest path to become intimately attached to and in union with God. This method may still prove to be daunting and it is wise to seek others who comment on these writings for help and guidance. Many speak from experience when they acknowledge that their lives have been profoundly changed as they walk along with the Saint and Holy Man.

I don't know how to read poetry. But I have fallen in love with this book and St. John of the Cross. He devotes pages and pages to describing his intent behind the poetry. This book has already been profound in deepening my prayer experience.

The ICS Publication of the Kavanaugh and Rodriguez translation of the 'collected' works is the most available and most readable. As in any translation many nuances are lost and or are not possible to translate into English. E. Alisson Peers' translation of the poetry is much more lyrical and closer to the poetic beauty of John of the Cross' poetry. Kavanaugh and Rodriguez make heavy use of Spanish commentators and 'specialists' in the sanjuanist doctrine - much of their commentary is a translation of studies already established. Very dependable work.

Hans Kung, in "Does God Exist?", provided an adequate review of the rational case for believing in the existence of GOD. Then the question arises .....How is it possible for a human being to relate, during this life, to an absolute being - GOD? St. John's collected works is a big read ... it will be a while before I read all of it. But I believe he offers a valuable guide. Mystic though he is, John tells his story with wonderful simplicity..... and his poetry is enchanting.

This is very good translation of the writings of St. John of Cross. For those that are hesitant, I will say that you need to do a lot of study and preparation to understand St. John of the Cross. He was a very learned priest and a contemporary of St. Teresa of Avila.

A stunning translation/interpretation of an amazing spiritual journey made by a humble, but deeply religious man. While a difficult journey at best, especially for contemporary folk, if one reads, rereads and rereads his thoughts, the journey though not made any easier at least becomes understandable.

You will need help from those in the Carmelite order to really understand St John of the Cross. Serious about your prayer life and spiritual journey? Pray the Holy Spirit as you read this.

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