



# A Lily Among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality

By Miguel A. De La Torre

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## A new way for Christians to think about sexuality

Author Miguel De La Torre, a well-respected ethicist and professor known for his innovative readings of Christian doctrine, rejects both the liberal and conservative prejudices about sex. He instead develops an ethic that is liberative yet grounded soundly in the Bible; a sexuality that celebrates God's gift of great sex by fostering intimacy, vulnerability and openness between loving partners.

In *A Lily Among the Thorns*, De La Torre examines the Bible, current events, history and our culture-at-large to show how and why racism, sexism, and classism have distorted Christianity's central teachings about sexuality. The author shows how the church's traditionally negative attitudes toward sex in general—and toward women, people of color, and gays in particular—have made it difficult, if not impossible, to create a biblically based and just sexual ethic. But when the Bible is read from the viewpoint of those who have been marginalized in our society, preconceived notions about Christianity and sex get turned on their heads. Taking on hot-button topics such as pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, and celibacy, the author examines how “reading from the margins” provides a liberating approach to dealing with issues of sexuality.

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## **A Lily Among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality** By Miguel A. De La Torre **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

De la Torre (ethics & religion, Iliff Sch. of Theology) here discusses the profound influence of feminist and liberation theologies. The savor and seriousness of his convictions is apparent from the disposition of his materials: unlike most books in the U.S. publishing market, which end on an upbeat note with suggestions for change, De la Torre moves outward from affirming women and the body to a carefully argued condemnation of predatory sexualities (pornography, rape, violence, sexual abuse), with only the most guarded hope for "resurrection after crucifixion." An excellent and intelligent book that deserves a wide audience. (*Library Journal*, May 1, 2007)

#### Review

"No clergyperson, seminarian, or layperson should ever again speak publicly about the Christian view of sex without first reading this book. They will need to undergo such an exercise in order to cleanse themselves of the many presuppositions and prejudices about sex that pervade our religious and secular cultures. This book is written for all liberal, conservative, evangelical, and neo-conservative Christians as a primer for adequate teaching on the subject of sex."

—Peter J. Paris, Elmer G. Homrighausen Professor, Christian social ethics, Princeton Theological Seminary

"The best guide to good sex I have seen! Miguel offers us a compassionate, liberating, thoughtful, honest, and well informed manual to the joys of loving, sexual relationships at their most ethical and transformative. He mines scripture and tradition for their life-giving possibilities, analyzes our society, and offers support for everyone seeking to negotiate the church's mixed messages, the right wing's harmful uses of religion, and popular culture's degradations of sex."

—Rita Nakashima Brock, director of Faith Voices for the Common Good, and senior editor in religion at *The New Press*

"De La Torre has given us all a marvelous gift; not simply justification for throwing away old oppressive models for sexuality and faith, but a new way of seeing ourselves, our sexual giftedness, and each other as we seek God's kingdom together."

—Harry Knox, director of religion and faith program, Human Rights Campaign Foundation

"Finally, a theologian who takes sexuality seriously enough to offer a sense of the sacred in our most intimate being"

—Marc H. Ellis, professor of Jewish studies, Baylor University

"De La Torre is . . . a progressive evangelical with a razor sharp mind who measures justice from the point of view of the oppressed. . . . *A Lily Among the Thorns* is destined to become a classic."

—John Raines, professor of religion, Temple University

#### From the Inside Flap

Courageous and provocative! Miguel De La Torre has the moral temerity to offer a celebration of the magnificence of sex by confronting nightmarish fears and oppressive prejudices that emerge from Christian scriptural interpretations about this most controversial topic. *A Lily Among the Thorns* provides insights that are at once edgy, tenacious, passionate, undeniably unique, and most of all, timely.

—Stacey M. Floyd-Thomas, associate professor of ethics and director of Black Church Studies, Brite

Divinity School, Texas Christian University

*A Lily Among the Thorns* gives Christians a new way of thinking about sexuality. Author Miguel De La Torre, a well-respected ethicist and professor known for his innovative readings of Christian doctrine, rejects both the liberal and conservative prejudices about sex. He instead develops an ethic that is liberative yet grounded soundly in the Bible; a sexuality that celebrates God's gift of great sex by fostering intimacy, vulnerability and openness between loving partners.

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Keeping one eye on the Bible and the other on the experiences of those who have suffered due to sexual repression, De La Torre has given us a provocative new vision of sexuality from a Christian perspective.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Stephan Stephens:**

Book will be written, printed, or created for everything. You can learn everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication *A Lily Among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality* will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think this open or reading any book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or acceptable book with you?

#### **James Ray:**

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**Carol Shull:**

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