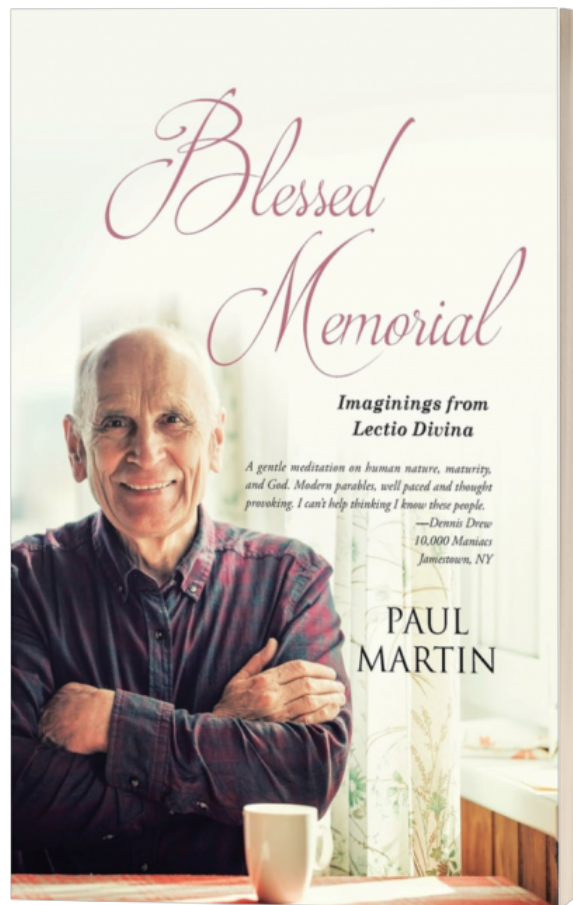


Retired Woodworker's Reflections Inspire Notable New Release on Redemption, Parables, and Hope

“Blessed Memorial: Imaginings from Lectio Divina” by Paul Martin is a stirring tale of second chances, spiritual encounters, and real-life redemption stories, now recognized as a Notable Book by Pacific Book Review



Los Angeles, California Nov 12, 2025 (Issuewire.com) - In his compelling new novel [*“Blessed Memorial: Imaginings from Lectio Divina”*](#), Paul Martin brings to life the story of Thomas Strongtree, a retired carpenter whose quiet reflections are interrupted by a box of police fingerprint cards discovered at a flea market. Intrigued by the untold stories of the teens behind the mugshots—now likely adults—Strongtree embarks on a journey of discovery, both of others and of himself.

At once spiritual, investigative, and human, Martin’s work seamlessly fuses Lectio Divina meditative practices with contemporary storytelling. Guided by faith and curiosity, Strongtree connects with former “youthful offenders,” uncovering their real-life accounts of bravery, poor choices, growth, and transformation. As he listens to their stories, he begins to see echoes of biblical parables in their journeys—tales of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and more, now reframed through modern-day

struggles and triumphs.

Awarded Notable Book by **Pacific Book Review**, the novel was praised for offering “a novel perspective on fostering a reading culture,” particularly through its emotionally resonant storytelling and thoughtful approach to body and parenting choices. The review also highlights Martin’s “admirable imagination” and ability to turn ordinary encounters into uplifting spiritual revelations.

[Martin](#), a Third Order Franciscan and retired craftsman, wrote the book to bring faith to everyday life. He writes: “We’re all looking to find the way, and I wrote the book for you. Talking with the Spirit can help you find the way and answers in your life.”

“Blessed Memorial” is a moving exploration of dignity, forgiveness, and the extraordinary within the ordinary.

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