

# New Women New Church

WOMEN'S ORDINATION CONFERENCE



A Voice for Women  
in the Church

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## Book Reviews



Adele Azar-Rucquoi. *Money As Sacrament: Finding the Sacred in Money*. Toronto: Ten Speed Press, 2002. 219 pp. \$12.95.

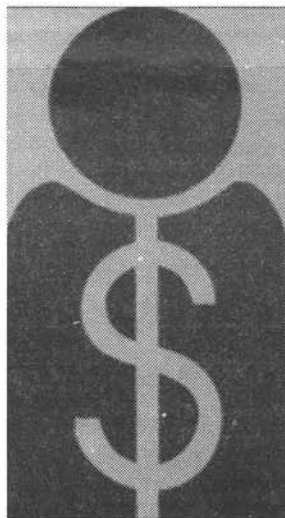
Reviewed by Evelyn Hunt

What a fascinating idea—*money as sacred*! Who ever thought that gritty stuff would enter the realm of sacrament? Adele Azar-Rucquoi thinks so and spins a readable and spirited life story of her money ups and downs while weaving in the stories of 50 other women, with and without money, that she interviewed.

You will immediately resonate with most of the women's stories because you have been there when it comes to handling, hoarding, or stewing money about with no thought of tomorrow.

The author has provided some golden nuggets of wisdom such as, it's not about money, but about not looking at your life or lack of it, about "creating obstacles that keep us from getting close to emotional issues or putting tough issues at bay." And, with two people as in a marriage, according to Azar-Rucquoi, it is about the process of deciding together how to use money, a much more wrenching endeavor.

Azar-Rucquoi covers various life experiences that put her into many crisis periods around issues of money until she came to peace with money's power to do good. "In that sense, it's a sacrament," she says after many years of soul-searching and prayer. She had gone from a small girl helping her father operate the cash register in the family grocery store, to 16 years of vowed poverty as a nun in a convent, to a single mature woman working three jobs, to inheriting a large sum of money, and finally to wedded life with a formerly homeless, jobless man. This condensed look at much of the book should whet your appetite to find out how the author and many other women have come to a better understanding of their relationship with money.



How to fit money issues into a life of prayer and conscious service to others is the challenge that the author addresses throughout her book. As an outgrowth of her many paths with money, she has developed workshops for women to help them sort out and become more comfortable with handling money in a life-giving way—avoiding the guilt, dislike, distancing, and flippancy that many women grew up with in such matters.

Reading this book is entering into a conversation you've had with many other like-minded women and finding out you are not the only one who has run up debt, or felt like the little girl with the change purse full of coins, or the secondhand clothes, or the lush with the new red Miata that your boyfriend or parents bought you. This book will help you see that in the end, money is the link between people, both in giving and in receiving.

According to the author, "No more do I think of money as mere worldly possession but rather as holy synthesis of matter, spirit, and exchange." You, too, will have a different view of your relationship with money after reading this blessing of a book.

*Evelyn Hunt serves as President on the WOC Board of Directors and she lives in Cleveland, Ohio.*