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Finding God in the Dark

Taking the Spiritual
Exercises of St. Ignatius
to the Movies

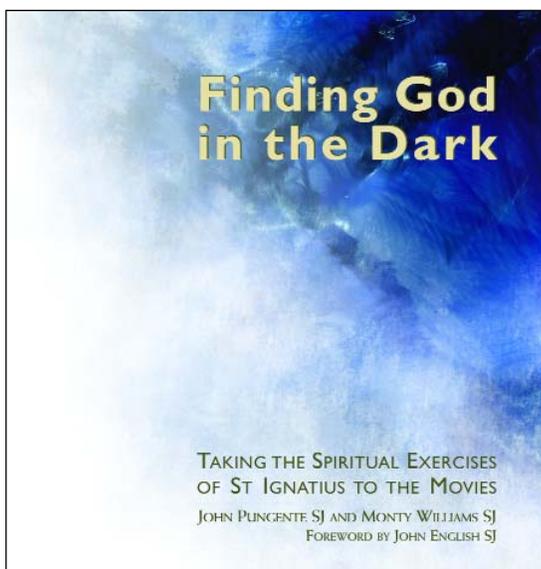
by John Pungente SJ and
Monty Williams SJ

We see movies because we are seekers

A MEDIA CRITIC and a spiritual counselor/retreat director combine talents to make mainstream movie-viewing a way to promote spiritual growth. This book follows the classic spiritual exercises of Ignatius of Loyola. Accessible, contemporary films are used as companions to promote discussion and deepen insight into God and ourselves.

Films featured in *Finding God in the Dark* have been chosen for ready availability and their ability to expose relevant issues, dilemmas and spiritual insights to the viewer. Films include: *Lost in Translation*, *Big Fish*, *Bowling for Columbine*, *Harry Potter*, *Bend it like Beckham*, *Mystic River*, *The Lord of the Rings* – not the sort of movies usually classified as “religious” or “spiritual.” However, they deal with human mysteries and will help us understand our deepest aspirations.

John Pungente and Monty Williams connect a particular spiritual literacy (i.e. Ignatian) with media literacy, in an age where film and television are the most powerful influences on our imagination. Ignatian prayer uses imagination to present to us our world, and allows us to open ourselves to the dynamic presence of God in the world. This book helps us use our modern, film-influenced imaginations to relate to God in prayer.



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