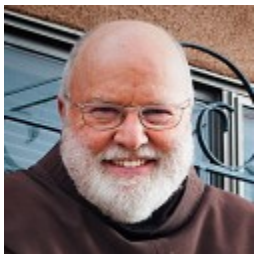


**Colette Lafia**  
***Seeking Surrender: How a Trappist Monk  
Taught Me to Trust and Embrace Life***  
**(Ave Maria Press, April 2015)**



“Colette Lafia challenges our notion of surrender, inviting us to see it as a path of opening to the fullness of life. Her spiritual companion, a Trappist monk from the Abbey of Gethsemani, encourages and guides her towards deeper trust along her journey in a series of letters shared over years. A beautiful and honest book.”

**Richard Rohr, O.F.M.**, Author of *Eager to Love*  
Center for Action and Contemplation

“Surrender to the will of God is discovered as foundational in this intriguing spiritual journey based on a seven-year correspondence between Colette Lafia and a simple Trappist brother who was overcome with his love for God. Seeking Surrender is a rewarding read for those searching for an answer in the midst of darkness only to discover he is always with us.”

**Damien Thompson, O.C.S.O.**  
Former Abbot, Abbey of Gethsemani



“Weaving a memoir of her path through resistance to life on its own terms with the letters of her spiritual companion and teacher, the late Brother René of Gethsemani, Colette Lafia invites her reader to practice the spiritual discipline of surrender, the soul’s dark path toward a doorway into light, a coming home to accepting—and even in the end loving—life’s hard times that bring graces nonetheless.”

**Jonathan Montaldo**, Coeditor of the *Bridges to Contemplative Living* Series

“In this consoling book, Colette Lafia shares with us how a Trappist monk named Brother René helped her to find inner peace by learning to surrender to God, who guides and sustains our lives in mysterious ways we do not understand. Colette shares with us a series of letters in which Brother René marks out the path of sweet surrender that we can follow as we learn to surrender to God’s presence in our lives.”

**James Finley**, Author of *Merton's Palace of Nowhere*  
Former Trappist Monk



“In her quiet, gentle, and deliberate way, Colette Lafia guides us inexorably toward a juncture most of us try our best to avoid: the place where suffering and surrender meet. If you are in pain, yet long to find God in the midst of it, this is your book.”

**Paula Huston**, Author of *A Land Without Sin*

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