

What Does It Mean to be Catholic?

Jack Mulder Jr.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Far from “another conversion book,” *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?* seeks to educate individuals about the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Faith. This book speaks to Catholics, non-Catholic Christians, and non-Christians alike, explaining Catholicism in clear, unbiased depth and debunking common misconceptions.

Mulder, who was raised in the Protestant tradition and converted to Catholicism as an adult, speaks from the perspective of one who has wrestled with his own beliefs over the years. With solid information — and without proselytizing — Mulder’s *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic?* presents a truly fresh perspective on the distinctive features of the Catholic faith.

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?

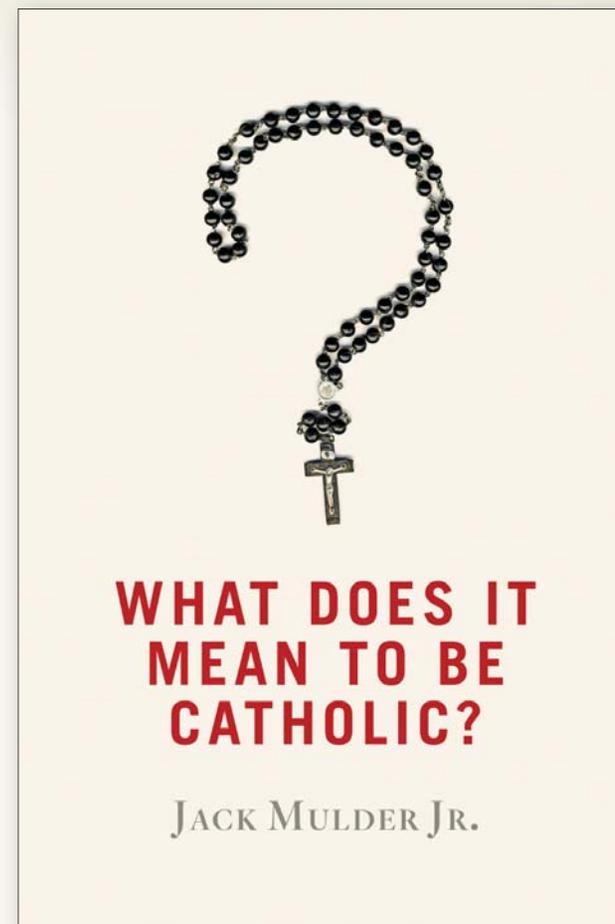
- Fresh perspective of someone who converted to Roman Catholicism as an adult
- Uses personal examples and compares them with more general Christian beliefs to enhance interfaith dialogue and help the reader gain a better understanding of the Catholic faith
- Accessible, easy to understand, and free of jargon
- Not an evangelical book: Mulder encourages readers to take what they learn from his book back to their denominations so they might ask questions and better understand their own beliefs and religions.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Ingrid Wolf
616 234 0548
iwolf@eerdmans.com



WM. B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING CO.
2140 Oak Industrial Drive NE / Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



SPECIFICS

ISBN	978-0-8028-7266-1
Pub date	July 2015
Format	6" × 9" paperback
Pages	238 pages
Price	\$20.00
Classification	Catholic Studies

616.459.4591 telephone
800.253.7521 toll free

616.459.6540 facsimile
sales@eerdmans.com

www.eerdmans.com

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

As someone raised in the Protestant faith, what drew you to Catholicism?

What made you decide to become Catholic? What's your conversion story?

Did you struggle to embrace certain Catholic teachings? Do you still struggle with them?

Has teaching at Hope College, a devoutly Reformed institution, been a challenge for you?

What myths or misconceptions about Catholicism have you encountered? How do you respond to them?

Why did you choose to write *What Does It Mean to Be Catholic*?

How would you describe your book? Apologetic? Purely educational? Who do you see reading it?

Do you address more controversial subjects, such as women's ordination, abortion, in vitro fertilization, and the death penalty?

As an outsider looking in (or an insider looking out), what do you see as the key issues facing Catholicism in the twenty-first century?

What *does* it mean to be Catholic? Is it possible to be Catholic and yet have honest scruples about certain aspects of the church's teachings?



ABOUT JACK MULDER JR.

Jack Mulder Jr. is associate professor and chair of the philosophy department at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He also serves as a Faculty Fellow in the Center for Ministry Studies and is the assistant director of the Saint Benedict Forum — a Catholic organization serving Hope College. He has previously published *Kierkegaard and the Catholic Tradition: Conflict and Dialogue*.

A Catholic convert, Mulder is a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Holland, where he teaches in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program for new Catholics. He is married to Melissa Mulder and has two children, Maria and Lucas. In his spare time, Mulder enjoys loud rock music, Chicago Cubs baseball, and visiting the beach with his family.

Follow Jack Mulder Jr. on Twitter @mulderphil.



WM. B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING CO.
2140 Oak Industrial Drive NE / Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

616.459.4591 telephone
800.253.7521 toll free

616.459.6540 facsimile
sales@eerdmans.com

www.eerdmans.com

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

“This is one of the most surprising and unique books I’ve encountered in recent years. It is the meditation of a convert, but it is not at all defensive or apologetic. Jack Mulder is a man who appreciates his past as he relishes his present. He has produced a book that in its breadth and depth — and its pure delight in God’s astonishing ways — evokes Augustine. It inspires and instructs, just as it builds bridges instead of walls.”

— **SCOTT HAHN**

author of *Rome Sweet Home*

“This book is user-friendly, clear, orthodox, honest, personal, and winsome. It is free of scholarly baloney, rhetorical tricks, or argumentative intimidation. A very good book to introduce Catholicism to open-minded inquirers, especially Evangelical Protestants.”

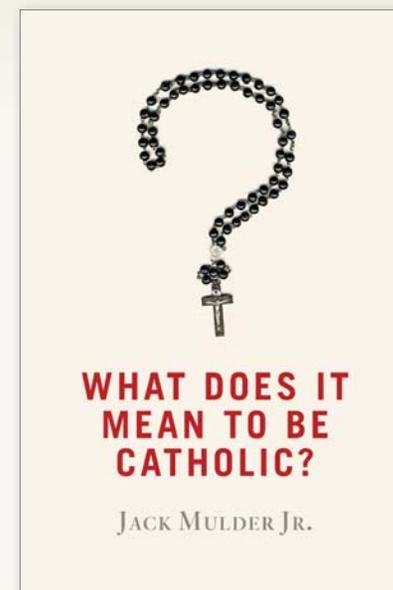
— **PETER KREEFT**

author of *Jesus Shock*

“Jack Mulder speaks as an adult convert to Catholicism who both values ecumenical dialogue and loves the beauty he sees in Catholicism. Mulder has written a book that will be useful to all those who want a brief, highly readable, historically informed overview of the distinctive doctrines that define the Roman Catholic faith. . . . Mulder writes with both conviction and an irenic spirit toward all who seek the truth.”

— **CAROLINE J. SIMON**

Whitworth College



TOPICS COVERED IN THE BOOK

papal infallibility
the communion of saints
Mary and the Immaculate Conception
the Seven Sacraments
heaven, hell, and purgatory
women’s ordination
vow of celibacy
homosexuality
contraception and abortion
divorce and remarriage
interfaith relations
and more



WM. B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING CO.
2140 Oak Industrial Drive NE / Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

616.459.4591 telephone
800.253.7521 toll free

616.459.6540 facsimile
sales@eerdmans.com

www.eerdmans.com