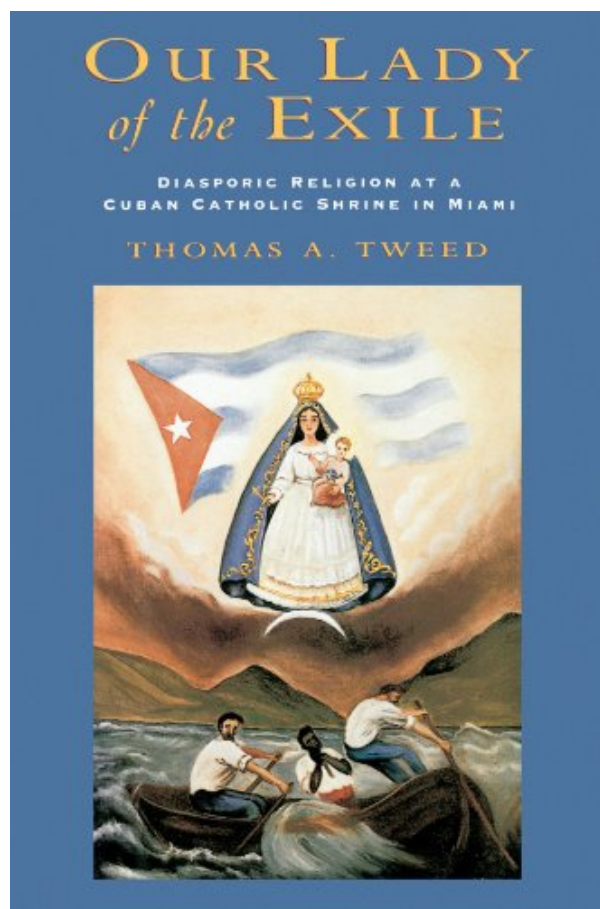


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"Our Lady of the Exile is a valuable contribution to the growing literature on Catholic and folk devotional religion. It will spark fruitful discussion in courses on popular religion and/or Latino history and religiosity."--Church History

"...the careful research and analysis presented in this volume make it a valuable source for scholars and students of Latino religion and religious studies generally, as well as American and ethnic studies, anthropology, and American Catholicism."--Catholic Historical Review

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About the Author

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Our Lady of the Exile is a study of Cuban-American popular Catholicism, focusing on the shrine of Our Lady Charity in Miami. Drawing on a wide range of sources and using both historical and ethnographic methods, the book examines the religious life of the Cuban exiles who visit the shrine. Those pilgrims are diverse, and so are the motives that bring them. At the same time, author Thomas A. Tweed argues, Cuban devotees of the national patroness share a great deal. Most come to pray for their homeland and to recreate bonds with other Cubans, on the island and in the diaspora. The shrine is a place where they come to make sense of themselves as an exiled people. The religious symbols there link the past and present and bridge the homeland and the new land. Through rituals and artifacts at the shrine, Tweed suggests, the Cuban diaspora "imaginatively constructs its collective identity and transports itself to the Cuba of memory and desire."

While the book focuses on Cuban exiles in Miami, it moves beyond case study as it explores larger issues concerning religion, identity, and place. How do migrants relate to their homeland? How do they understand themselves after they have been displaced? What role does religion play among these diasporic groups? Building on this study of one exiled group, Tweed proposes a theory of diasporic religion that promises to illuminate the experiences of other groups that have been displaced from their native land.

As the first book-length analysis of Cuban-American Catholicism, Tweed's book will be an invaluable resource to scholars and students of not only Religious Studies, American Studies, and Ethnic Studies, but also those who study cultural anthropology, human geography, and Latin American history.

- Sales Rank: #455367 in Books
- Published on: 2002-10-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.00" h x .70" w x 9.10" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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As A Cuban Catholic myself(My parents came in 1967 and 1980)who was born In Miami, And Raised here, Raised Roman Catholic, This book already Establishes alot of what I already Knew and Love. My Patria, My Religion,Mi Cubanidad, I grew up going to La Ermita Del La Caridad And Still do,I was born next door to it(Mercy Hospital) and my Uncle Attended La Salle.These are my roots. I disagree with some of the author's ill conceived ideas such as Pre 1959 Cuba, About Racism in Cuba, the book other than that gives others (non Cubans) what We already have experienced without Anti-Cuban Rhetoric which We are used to From Anglos and Non-Cubans,Liberals, And Anti-Catholics.The book also shows the major differences between Catholicism and Santeria which True Catholics Should Not Dabble With. La Virgencita "Cachita" will see to it that Cuba Once again will be Free From Tyranny, and all Cubans Being United, She intercedes for us,As We Petition for Health,And Family Matters.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A book that should be read by every Cuban or Catholic

By William A. Llano

A very good guide to the devotion that Cubans have towards the patroness of their country of origin. I had a very strong devotion to Cachita as a child(And still do!) and found it a rewarding read. Good Cultural study and look into the Cuban Religious psyche. I have always found it almost prophetic that the original statue was found by Cubans adrift on a boat.

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