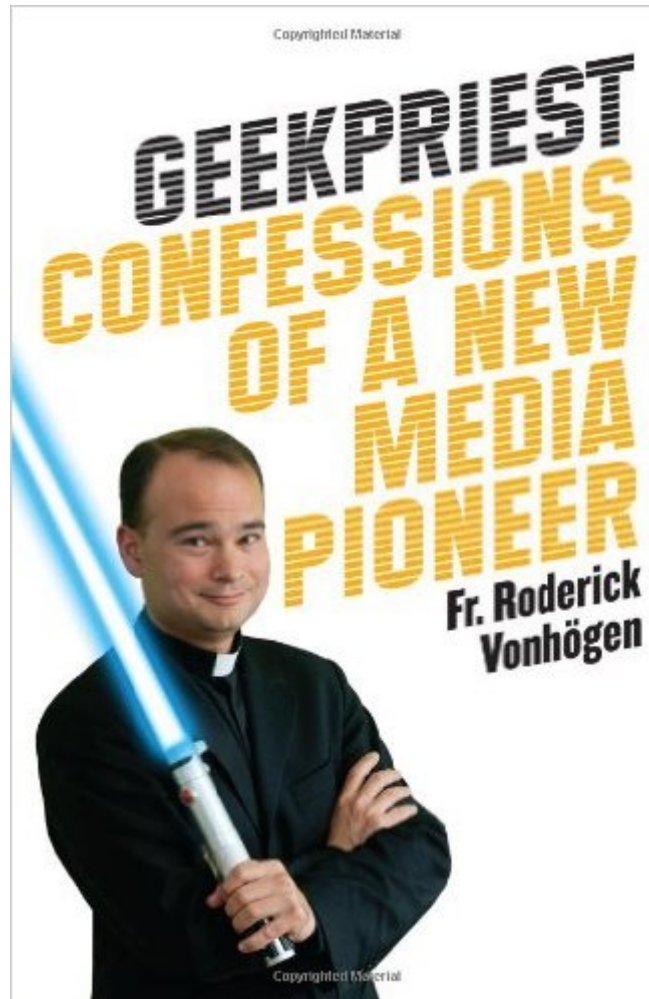


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# Geekpriest: Confessions Of A New Media Pioneer



## Synopsis

In this engrossing collection of stories and anecdotes, Fr. Roderick shares how he became a new media missionary. • Focusing on the importance of personal connection (an essential ingredient of new media), he uncovers the exciting possibilities of using all forms of media to successfully accomplish the mission Jesus gave us: to evangelize the world. Each chapter contains illustrations of using new media as a way to reach out to others. Some examples: How the pope got his iPod Reaching 50,000 Harry Potter fans without waving a magic wand Why gaming can be good for the soul How to deal with online atheists The Mass and mass media How you, too, can become a new media missionary Fr. Roderick's stories introduce a young, secularized generation to an experience of God at work in his Church and in individual lives. Instead of presenting dry theories and principles, this book reveals those principles through experiences of one of today's leading Catholic new media entrepreneurs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been listening to Father Roderick since around 2005. When I first started listening to him, I felt a little odd at first, me a non-Catholic listening to a Catholic Priest. However I couldn't stop listening to him, he tells such great stories and makes you want to listen to some more. That how this book is it is full of stories told in a personal way that makes you just want to read more. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

Part memoir, part inspirational help book, "GeekPriest" is a fun ride through the social media

explosion with Father Roderick. He takes readers from his own beginnings in geek-hood with the original "Star Wars" all the way through his vlogging and podcasts of the recent Conclave that elected Pope Francis. Along the way, he explores the "Star Wars" fan sites, gives invaluable tips on communicating with Wookies, attends classes in Rome, tells of meeting Blessed Pope John Paul II, giving talks in the Vatican, meets Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, romps through the Shire in NZ, and stands in the rain. Sprinkled throughout his life story, Father Roderick gives many tips and techniques for using new media effectively. There is lots of good information in this book, presented in a readable and enjoyable style. Father Roderick is known for his engaging outlook and sense of humor, both well on display throughout these pages. While, as he notes, he may have trouble being canonized because of the paper trail he has left behind, he still provides an invaluable service by reaching out to the world from his own Catholic view.

I have listened to Fr. Roderick's Podcasts and various on-demand shows for many years, and I thought I knew how he managed to find his groove in this new media era.....but this book makes it crystal clear that his Podcasting is only a small tool of what is actually a much larger calling. I know Fr. Roderick as the guy who creates very slick productions that are fun, entertaining, positive, uplifting and at the same time do NOT beat you over the head with religion but rather offers up lessons and explanations about life in and about the Catholic faith. In fact, I learned about his Podcasts from a friend of mine who isn't at all religious! This book does more than give you a look at his world of Podcasting. It gives you a look at how Roderick Vonhogen, a bright (geeky), non-athletic child from the Netherlands who seemed to be guided to use his creativity. The book describes how he brings together his interests in science fiction, computers, TV and modern day life with his Catholic faith. The book highlights how being a Catholic isn't a throwback to a time gone by, because the values prescribed in the Christian faith are exactly those needed today. His life seems to be dedicated to not just knowing this, but to his communicating in very normal and "low-key" ways to us regular types....Catholic and non-Catholic alike. His story also offers a wonderful insight into how each of us can find value and happiness in our lives by listening less to our selfish desires and a little more to that little voice inside, set there to guide us.....you don't need to be religious to be entertained and/or learn from this book. I highly recommend it!

This book is a great addition to listening to the many podcasts Father Roderick produced and continues to produce over the years. It still contains so much more detailed information, funny and thoughtful anecdotes and stories, and you get a very personal insight into his works and life. It is

written in the same style as all his other media-works: personal, up-beat, entertaining, encouraging and fun but also inspiring, thoughtful and with a deeper layer. Whats best about it, is that it does not knock you out with religion. It makes you curious and makes the church and catholic religion more tangible, more personal and more of an organizations for people like you and me. It emphasizes Father Rodericks constant aim to reach out to the people and not hide away in your sanctuary as a priest.If you do know Father already, this is a must-have. And if you don't - it is a great start to get into his world (I promise: you will get sucked in even if you are not into Star-Wars) and explore your own in ways you might not expect.

For those of you familiar with Father Roderick Vonhogen's podcasts, all I need to say in recommendation of this book is that it is quintessential Father Roderick. Written in the same approachable, informal style that he uses in his numerous podcasts, it gives us further insight into the formation of his interest in all things "geek" and gives a remarkable look into his discovery of his vocation and formation as a young priest. The evolution of his interest in podcasting and new media is remarkably well-presented, and it is a charming deconstruction of what that "aha!" moment is for everyone when they find the thing they are really called to do. The descriptions he presents of his childhood were so evocative of the wonder I remember from my own childhood related to finding things, like "Star Wars" that make the world seem so big and so full of possibility. The story about the meaning and usefulness of confession was the best I've ever heard, particularly how it was presented as a vital piece in discovering the real presence of God's mercy. Finally, Father Roderick's first hand descriptions of the transitions he's witnessed in the papacy were literally breathtaking.

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