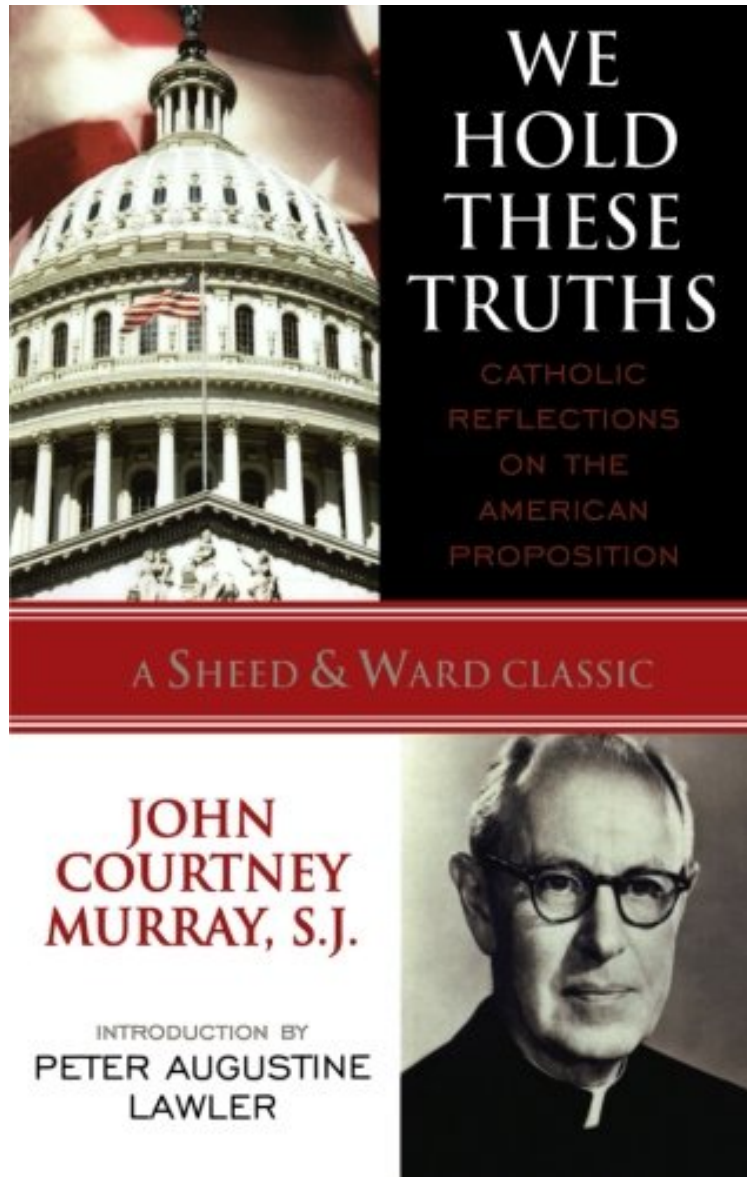


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We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition (A Sheed Ward Classic)

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John Courtney Murray : We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition (A Sheed Ward Classic) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition (A Sheed Ward Classic):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Paterali@aol.com By John Keohane Initially published in 1960 this work stands the test of time. It begins by tracing American political history by joining Lincoln in giving meaning to the structure of the Constitution by linking it to the Declaration of Independence. It views the early American theorists and politicians as treating the tradition of natural law reflected in the Declaration as an inheritance. Murray describes natural law as being based on three concepts: man is intelligent; that reality is intelligible; and that reality, as grasped by intelligence, imposes on the will the obligation that it be obeyed in its demands for action or abstention. Its timeliness is best shown in its chapters dealing with the relation of Church and State as addressed by the First Amendment which are applicable to present day events and its discussion of the Cold War particularly if one substitutes Islamic Extremists for the Soviet Union insofar as certain "pragmatists" did not take Soviet "dogma" seriously. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Book By Joanne Hansinger This is an important book that every citizen and politician should read. It is relevant to our time and place in history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Book By Anushka Fonseka It is a great book that talks about the politics and the religious freedom in US. Every one should read this I think.

The 1960 publication of *We Hold These Truths* marked a significant event in the history of modern American thought. Since that time, Sheed Ward has kept the book in print and has published several studies of John Courtney Murray's life and work. We are proud to present a new edition of this classic text, which features a comprehensive introduction by Peter Lawler that places Murray in the context of Catholic and American history and thought while revealing his relevance today. From the new Introduction by Peter Lawler: The Jesuit John Courtney Murray (1904-67) was, in his time, probably the best known and most widely respected American Catholic writer on the relationship between Catholic philosophy and theology and his country's political life. The highpoint of his influence was the publication of *We Hold These Truths* in the same year as an election of our country's first Catholic president. Those two events were celebrated by a Time cover story (December 12, 1960) on Murray's work and influence. The story's author, Protestant Douglas Auchincloss, reported that it was "The most relentlessly intellectual cover story I've done." His amazingly wide ranging and dense if not altogether accurate account of Murray's thought was crowned with a smart and pointed conclusion: "If anyone can help U.S. Catholics and their non-Catholic countrymen toward the disagreement that precedes understanding John Courtney Murray can." . . . Murray's work, of course, is treated with great respect and has had considerable influence, but now it's time to begin to think of him as one of America's very few genuine political philosophers. His disarmingly lucid and accessible prose has caused his book to be widely cited and celebrated, but it still is not well understood. It is both praised and blamed for reconciling Catholic faith with the fundamental premises of American political life. It is praised by liberals for paving the way for Vatican II's embrace of the American idea of religious liberty, and it is

About the Author Father John Courtney Murray was one of America's foremost theologians. Born in New York City in 1904, he held degrees from Boston College, Woodstock College, and the Gregorian University in Rome, where he received his doctorate in theology. He was professor of theology at Woodstock College and editor of *Theological Studies* for over twenty-five years.