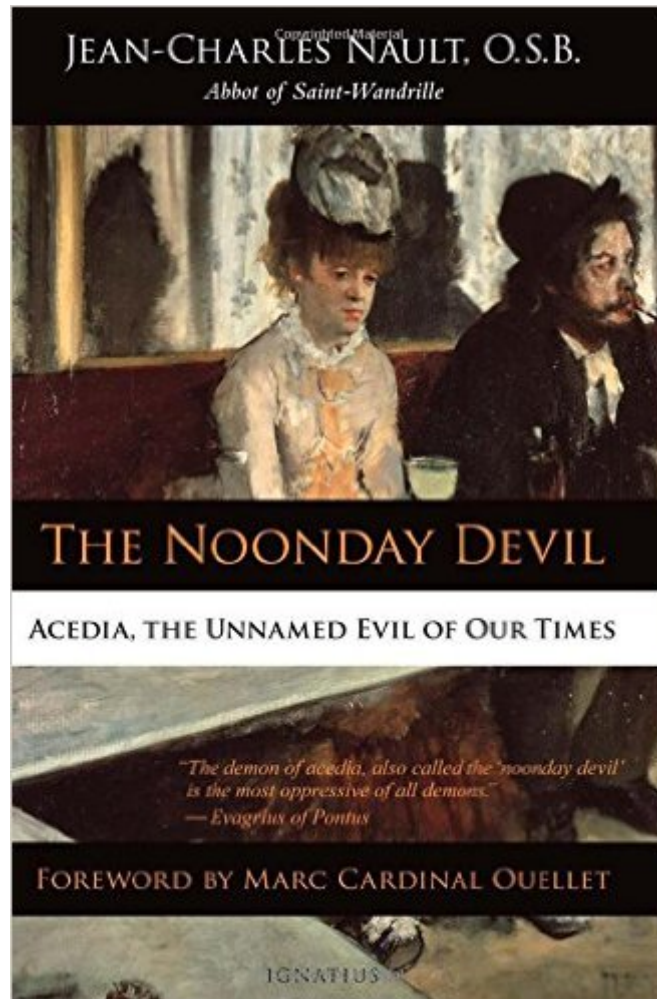


The book was found

# The Noonday Devil: Acedia, The Unnamed Evil Of Our Times



## Synopsis

The noonday devil is the demon of acedia, the vice also known as sloth. The word *acedia*, however, can be misleading, for acedia is not laziness; in fact it can manifest as busyness or activism. Rather, acedia is a gloomy combination of weariness, sadness, and a lack of purposefulness. It robs a person of his capacity for joy and leaves him feeling empty, or void of meaning. Abbot Nault says that acedia is the most oppressive of demons. Although its name harkens back to antiquity and the Middle Ages, and seems to have been largely forgotten, acedia is experienced by countless modern people who describe their condition as depression, melancholy, burn-out, or even mid-life crisis. He begins his study of acedia by tracing the wisdom of the Church on the subject from the Desert Fathers to Saint Thomas Aquinas. He shows how acedia afflicts persons in all states of life—priests, religious, and married or single laymen. He details not only the symptoms and effects of acedia, but also remedies for it. "The simple, direct style of this work makes the reader feel involved and challenged to consider anew what is essential in his existence." - Cardinal Marc Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops (Rome) "A must read for anyone who takes the spiritual life seriously. Christ's passion and death on the cross is the most perfect answer to the terrible evil that tells man his very existence is meaningless." - Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B., Author, *The Ear of the Heart*

## Book Information

Paperback: 205 pages

Publisher: Ignatius Press (February 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 158617939X

ISBN-13: 978-1586179397

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (55 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #37,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Ethics #89 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Spiritual Warfare #719 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology

## Customer Reviews

The Noonday Devil is a shorter version of a longer study of acedia done by the author, a French abbot. While it seems geared mainly for monks and students of theology, I found it quite helpful and

recommend it, even to people who are not tied to monasteries or Catholicism. The book is a rich source for understanding the causes of the struggles many have with weariness, depression, feelings of being overworked, the perpetual need for change, and the desire to constantly fill one's life with distractions to avoid the sensation of meaninglessness. While the language used in various parts of the book can be somewhat scholarly, the information is presented simply enough for almost anyone to grasp. There are many wonderful quotes and anecdotes throughout the book. I'll admit feeling a little daunted reading about a subject that took an entire book to truly define. Acedia is a complex subject with a wide range of symptoms. In a way, it is both an affliction AND a sin. As the book notes in depth, the word "acedia" itself fell out of use throughout history and was replaced in lists of vices with words like "sloth" or "sadness" that capture only an aspect of the bigger affliction of acedia. Acedia is essentially spiritual laziness, as well as an indifference toward (and possibly a disgust with) the things of God. It leads to a loss of enthusiasm in one's Christian witness and ultimately causes a lack of caring about the possibility of one's salvation. This (and much more) is all stated more profoundly in the book, but I say it here to indicate the importance of understanding the subject of acedia.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Noonday Devil: Acedia, the Unnamed Evil of Our Times  
Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament  
Acedia and Its Discontents: Metaphysical Boredom in an Empire of Desire  
Torah Commentary for Our Times: Genesis (Torah Commentary for Our Times)  
The School for Good and Evil: The School for Good and Evil, Book 1  
The Many Faces of Evil (Revised and Expanded Edition): Theological Systems and the Problems of Evil  
Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians (Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians)  
MINECRAFT: Diary of a Minecraft Bounty Hunter 10 (Mission 'Evil Dinnerbone') ((Mission 4 'Evil Dinnerbone' Part 1))  
Devil in the Making: The Devil DeVere  
The Devil Is a Part-Timer, Vol. 6 - manga (The Devil Is a Part-Timer! Manga)  
The Devil's Due and Other Stories: The Devil's Due, The Portal, Disfigured, Empathy, and Epitaph (International Thriller Writers Presents: Thriller, Vol. 1)  
Inheritance: How Our Genes Change Our Lives--and Our Lives Change Our Genes  
The Mind-Gut Connection: How the Hidden Conversation Within Our Bodies Impacts Our Mood, Our Choices, and Our Overall Health  
Lexicon Devil: The Fast Times and Short Life of Darby Crash and the Germs  
Abolishing Abortion: How You Can Play a Part in Ending the Greatest Evil of Our Day  
Living as United Methodist Christians: Our Story, Our Beliefs, Our Lives  
Pornified: How Pornography Is Transforming Our Lives, Our Relationships, and Our Families  
GlobalChurch: Reshaping Our Conversations, Renewing Our Mission, Revitalizing Our Churches  
High Times Hard

Times Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)

[Dmca](#)