

**\*\*\*WORD COUNT: 245**

**Into Your Hands, Father: Abandoning Ourselves to the God Who Loves Us**

**(Ignatius, 2011)**

**by Wilfrid Stinissen (trans. Sister Clare Marie, O.C.D.)**

**reviewed by Richard Grebenc**

“God makes use of evil in such a superb way and with such skill that the result is better than if there had never been evil.” (15)

This quote, which comes less than three pages into chapter one, gives some indication of the challenges for which the reader is in store when working through the short but profound book, *Into Your Hands, Father*.

The author, Carmelite Father Wilfrid Stinissen, cites as his impetus for this work the idea that complete surrender to God encompasses all practices of importance on the journey to God. Like the great spiritual writers, Fr. Stinissen provides stages to achieving this surrender.

The first stage is Accepting God’s Will: submission, or what the author calls the “passive dimension of surrender.” The second stage is Obeying God’s Will: carrying out His will, the “active dimension.” The most challenging reading and implementation is found in the third and final stage: Being God’s Instrument, or “passive activity”. In the first two stages we do it for God; in the final stage God does it through us.

By no means a replacement for other works on spirituality (one needs to understand well the aforementioned “practices of importance” first), the careful reader will want to make good use of the pen or highlighter to permanently note concepts to which he will want to continually refer back in order to help guide him in making progress toward that surrender to God that the author finds absolutely vital. -- *Richard J. Grebenc*