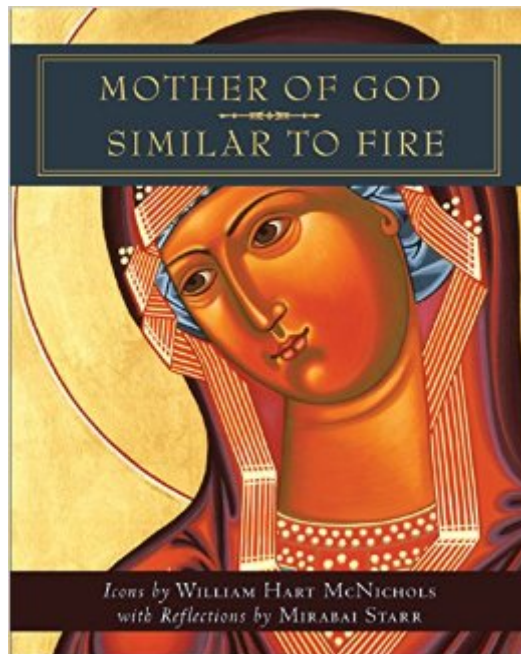


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# Mother Of God Similar To Fire



## Synopsis

Fifty selected images by renowned icon-painter William Hart McNichols are illuminated by Mirabai Starr's lyrical prose-poems to help make the eternal figure of Mary vibrantly accessible.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

"People of all faiths call her Mother," writes Mirabai Starr in her introduction to this new book of icons and reflections. "In moments of deeply personal sorrow, we turn to her for consolation. In our bewilderment, we turn to her for insight." Starr describes Mary not only as our personal Mother, but as Mother of the World. "When the world seems to be losing its balance and spiraling into a vortex of violence and greed, we turn to Mary for a reminder of what matters most, what endures when all else seems lost, what grace may yet be available when we meet fear with love." The icons of William Hart McNichols manifest this global dimension: Mother of God, She Who Hears the Cries of the World; The Andronicus Icon of the Mother of God, Consoler of Women; Mary Most Holy, Mother of all Nations. In this one, Mary holds our planet viewed from space against her golden robe and turquoise gown. McNichols's iconography is unusual, mystical, full of bright colors and rich symbols: snow and stars, water and fire, trees and chalice. There are traditional icons and more contemporary ones, Mary as Burning Bush, the nursing Mary, and several black madonnas. "You gaze on the icon, but it gazes on you too... We need to gaze on truly conversational, truly loving images, images that will return our love," says McNichols. As he explains in his Preface, Starr's "meditative prayers" are deliberately brief and serve as "an opening" for each of us who read them.

The book offers "a contemplative space for you to enter and find your own relationship with the images and words." This well-designed volume features 51 sumptuous icons and prayers for only \$25. I commend Orbis Books for such generosity.

The book *Mother of God Similar to Fire* is one of the most beautiful publications I've ever seen. It is a presentation of 51 icons painted (or written, as they say) by Fr. William Hart McNichols. Each icon is moving, captivating, and is literally a doorway into heaven as you sit and allow it to lead you into prayer. It is difficult for me to pick a favorite -- but if I had to, I would pick the *Mother of God Similar to Fire* icon itself, actually. As if that were not enough, with each icon is a prayer by the writer Mirabai Starr. Each one is very, very lovely. The advertisement I had seen for this book stated that these were "poems," and they certainly are. But, as fine as they are, they transcend that genre. I had read Starr before (in her work on John of the Cross) and had enjoyed the material. With this book, I'm just blown away. I particularly liked the work on page 49, where she says, "Mother of Mercy, if I stay awake all night, vigilant and grateful, will you drop your protective veil over my vulnerable heart?" Isn't that lovely? So, here we have beautiful icons with lovely poems/prayers on the facing pages. This book is a treasure. I recommend it without reservation to anyone who loves beautiful paintings/icons, lovely marian poetry, or beautiful devotional icons and text.

"*Mother of God - Similar to Fire*" is a stunning collaboration that combines riveting iconic artwork with heartfelt, poetic reflections. These fifty portrayals of Mary present her as a passionate and approachable embodiment of the divine feminine. This is a much more authentic and vibrant Mary than the version I was exposed to in Catholic school in the 60's.

I turn to this book again and again both for solace and for inspiration. The beautiful paintings and reflections work together to create a lovely whole. I'll be buying more for gifts -- want to hang on to my own.

*Mother of God Similar to Fire* is a wonderful instrument for deepening one's appreciation and love of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother. I could sit with the icons alone and move inward, but the prayer poems associated with each icon are so creative and moving that I was drawn further in and achieved my goal to know Mary better and love her more. This book has been a blessing for me.

Almost as revered as Jesus himself, Mary has become a significant religious icon. "Mother of God,

Similar to Fire" chooses fifty iconic images of Mary seek to grant new spirit and thought to the images of Mary and her many presentations all over the world. Brilliantly presented in full color by William Hart McNichols and spiritual writing from Mirabai Starr. A thoughtful and spiritual compilation, "Mother of God, Similar to Fire" is an excellent pick and is very highly recommended.

Mirabai Starr's gentle prayers for everyday life, combined with Father Bill's splendid artistry, make this book one of my bedside favorites. It comforts me when I'm confused, inspires me when I feel lost, and reminds me that I am held and loved when I feel lonely. This is a "must have" book for all who look to the divine feminine when in need. Thank you Mirabai and Father Bill for combining your gifts in such a beautiful way.

This is a beautifully produced book. The images of the Holy Mother are based in traditional icons in subdued colours which add a depth of feeling and expression to them. They generate warmth and a charisma that appeal to young and old. I have passed on the book to my eldest grand daughter, who has a feeling for art, with a view to introducing to Mary and maybe she will use some of the pages to frame and make gifts for other members of the family and some of her friends. For me, the book is an evangelising tool to spread devotion to Our Lady.

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