One morning, in a hermitage nestled in Californias lovely Big Sur country, Paula Huston read a Scripture verse that she had read hundreds of times before: Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. This time the verse penetrated her heart as never before. Much had happened to her in the preceding years: a return to Christianity, conversion to Catholicism, a choice for a radically simplified life, an increasing hunger for prayer and the Eucharist. Now, Huston understood that all of that was just the beginning. God was calling her to a deeper experience of holiness, which would require of her arduous work that led to the simplest surrender. By Way of Grace is her artfully constructed, gracefully written account of what she learned. The book contends that the spiritual life firmly rests on saints and virtues, and each chapter focuses on how a great saint of the mystical Catholic tradition explains and exemplifies one of the traditional Christian virtues. Intertwined with this material is Hustons personal story of her struggles to respond to Jesus invitation to come to me and drink. By Way of Grace discloses the essential simplicity of holiness and encourages people of faith to soar to new heights on the wings of Gods amazing love.

My Personal Review:
In her earlier book The Holy Way, Paula Huston mapped the landscape of a conversion. She charted her way--and illumined ours--with honesty, intelligence, and self-deprecating wit. In By Way of Grace, Huston shares her continuing journey, inviting us to join her as she delves deeper, climbs higher. Some of this way from faithfulness to holiness leads inevitably over steep and stony ground, as PH disarmingly admits. But for those of us who are in our own lives of faith seeking a way to the mountains, PH is an invaluable guide. She deftly weaves together personal experience with traditional theology and the wisdom of the saints. She has in fact reclaimed the virtues as powerful practices for our lives toward God, and reintroduced some of the giants of the faith as luminous companions on the way.