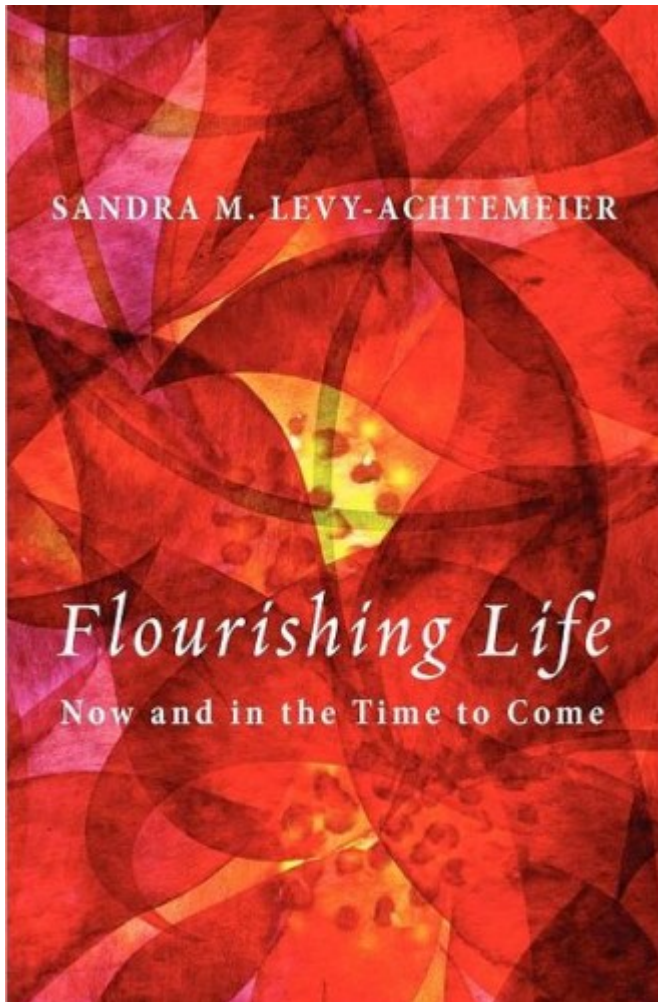


Flourishing Life, by Sandra M. Levy-Achtemeier

Books in the [June 27, 2012](#) issue

In Review



Flourishing Life

By Sandra M. Levy-Achtemeier
Cascade

In readable fashion Levy-Achtemeier explores what it means for humans to flourish. Trained as a psychologist and an Episcopal priest, she draws on evolutionary neuroscience, positive psychology and theology. Relying especially on Teilhard de

Chardin, she argues that we are to be cocreators with God of our own lives. She draws on interviews she conducted with recent retirees to see how they assessed their lives and how they perceive their future. A life well lived is one in which we make the most of our inborn traits, what is given to us by the people and culture around us and the practices in which we engage. Even tragedy and calamity, depending on how we respond to them, can lead toward our transformation as human beings. As a Christian, Levy-Achteimeier believes in the resurrection; so, she says, our final flourishing happens in the life to come.