



The Theology of Illness

By JEAN-CLAUDE LARCHET, MICHAEL BRECK

St Vladimirs Seminary Press January 2002, 2002. Paper Back. Condition: New. French philosopher and Orthodox layman Jean-Claude Larchet makes a bold, possibly even startling, pronouncement: "There is no question that people today have far fewer resources than their ancestors did to deal with the entire problem [of physical illness]." While he accedes that modern medicine has acquired extraordinary skill in diagnosis, therapy and prevention, its treatment of the body addresses only our biology and not our spirituality. As strange it sounds, being deprived of illness actually limits our means of dealing with death, doing little to help us assume the redemptive powers of suffering and humility. Here Dr. Larchet wisely grounds us in the Church Fathers and Holy Scripture, concentrating first on the origin of illness and its spiritual meaning before presenting the Christian path toward true health. Recently translated from the French, this may be the first synthesis of illness from an Orthodox perspective to incorporate the contemporary issues our culture presents, but it is by no means original (and we mean that as a compliment). Throughout Larchet's study, we are sustained by the perfection of Christ's Body as the Church, reminded that our health (or illness) is fundamentally...



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