

FATHERLESS

BY BRIAN J. GAIL

A READING DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What is Fatherless saying about America's late 20th century culture?
2. What role has the Catholic Church in America played in the formation of that culture?
3. What are the principal factors which have affected the Catholic Church's "voice" in America over the past 50 years?
4. What were the decisive influences in the transformation of Fr. John Sweeney's priestly ministry?
5. What are the implications of the personal choice Joe Delgado made between his family and his career.
6. Would you have handled Michael Burns' professional moral dilemma any differently?
7. On balance, was Maggie Kealey justified in taking the Pill in an attempt to save her marriage?
8. How did the shocking end of Moia Kealey's young life affect you?
9. What character in Fatherless could you most relate to and why?
10. What did you think of his brother priests' reaction to John Sweeney's invitation in Rome to collaborate in the New Evangelization?