

# New in the Library

September 2011

Jason Berry, *Render unto Rome*, Call Number 262.0206 Ber 2011, is an exposé of recent financial problems in the Roman Catholic Church which the author thinks are limiting the Church's charitable activities. The cautious reader should compare the recent fiscal problems of the Roman Church with the historical problems described in John Julius Norwich, *Absolute Monarchs: A History of the Papacy*, Call Number 262.13 Nor 2011.

Richard Landes, *Heaven on Earth*, Call Number 202.3 Lan 2011, is subtitled "The Varieties of the Millennial Experience." Landes defines millennialism as "the belief that at some point in the future the world that we live in will be radically transformed into one of perfection - of peace, justice, fellowship, and plenty." The believers are always disappointed because there is no perfect world. How the believers deal with their disappointment can make the difference between significant contributions to civilization and mass murder. Landes believes that millennialism can be applied to political, as well as religious, movements. In this book, Landes explores political millennialism in such movements as the French Revolution and Terror, the Russian Bolshevnik Revolution, Nazism, and Maoism. He also deals with Melanesian cargo cults and post-modern UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) cults, which can be very similar. Landes is an authority on early medieval Christian millennialism surrounding the year 1000, and is working on a future book concerning Judaic-Christian millennialism. This book is scholarly and difficult, but presents an insightful analysis of some of the political horrors of the twentieth century which continue to haunt us all.

