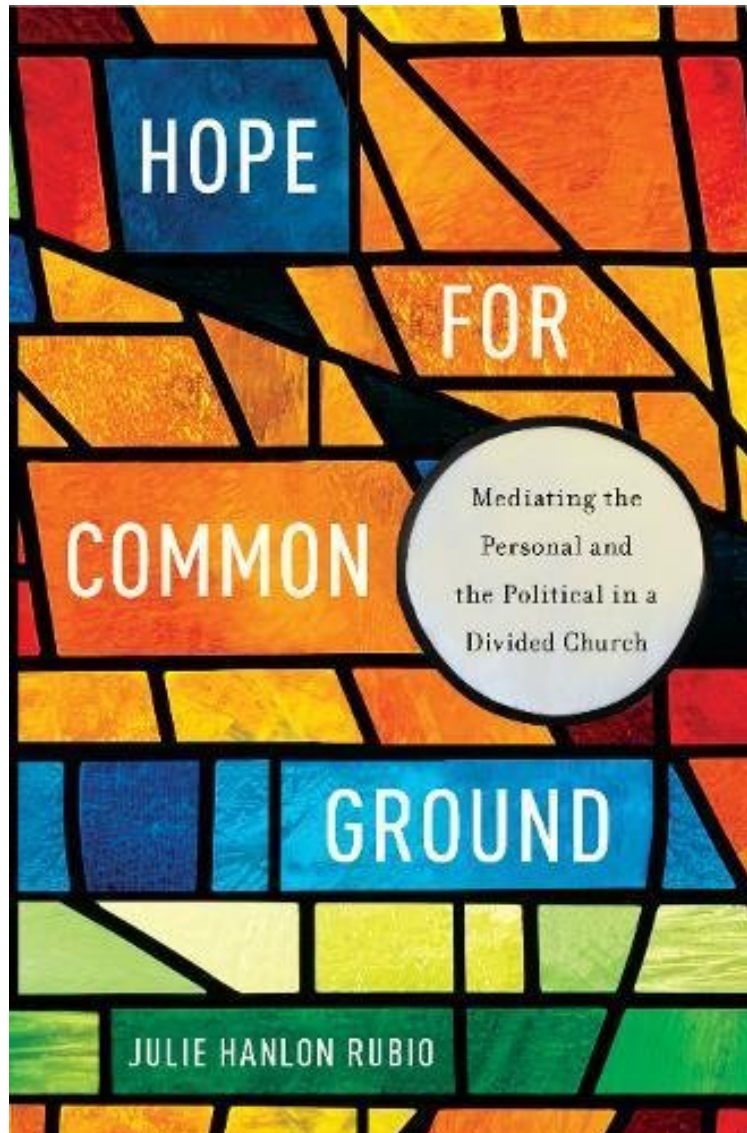


(Mobile library) Hope for Common Ground: Mediating the Personal and the Political in a Divided Church (Moral Traditions)

Hope for Common Ground: Mediating the Personal and the Political in a Divided Church (Moral Traditions)

Julie Hanlon Rubio

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Julie Hanlon Rubio : Hope for Common Ground: Mediating the Personal and the Political in a Divided Church (Moral Traditions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hope for Common Ground: Mediating the Personal and the Political in a Divided Church (Moral Traditions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Church Ministries and Politics work hand in handBy Barbara

NicholsIf you are looking for ways to meet people's needs today - this book gives insights as to how good works at the parish level and politics can work together to make everyone's life better.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A hopeful guide to common good, not just for Catholic readersBy Brian StiltnerRubio proposes that the potential for developing common ground is strong when people focus on the local sphere, the space between the personal and the political. Rubio practices what she preaches, exhibiting a conversational tone and open-minded vision throughout. While focused on Catholic sources and issues, the book is by no means narrow. Not only other Christians but all people have to face the social issues discussed here--poverty, abortion, end-of-life care, and family welfare--and it matters to all citizens how religious communities are addressing them. Therefore, this book is a great launching point for honest conversations in churches, in colleges courses (religious or note), and perhaps Catholic high school courses. The book deserves a wide readership within and outside Catholic circles.

Much like the rest of the country, American Catholics are politically divided, perhaps more so now than at any point in their history. In this learned but accessible work for scholars, students, and religious and lay readers, ethicist Julie Hanlon Rubio suggests that there is a way beyond red versus blue for orthodox and progressive Catholics. In a call for believers on both sides of the liberal-conservative divide to put aside labels and rhetoric, Rubio, a leading scholar in marriage and family for more than twenty years, demonstrates that common ground does exist in the local sphere between the personal and the political.In *Hope for Common Ground*, Rubio draws on Catholic Social Thought to explore ways to bring Catholics together. Despite their differences, Catholics across the political spectrum can share responsibility for social sin and work within communities to contribute to social progress. Rubio expands this common space into in-depth discussions on family fragility, poverty, abortion, and end-of-life care. These four issues, though divisive, are part of a seamless worldview that holds all human life as sacred. Rubio argues that if those on different sides focus on what can be done to solve social problems in "the space between" or local communities, opposing sides will see they are not so far apart as they think. The common ground thus created can then lead to far-reaching progress on even the most divisive issuesand help quiet the discord tearing apart the Church.

Rubio's book is best in its review of the theological place that communities offer us to live as Christians in the world. Her call for choosing the incremental and the pragmatic-and I would add "the prudential"-is compelling. * U.S. Catholic Magazine * "This book could not have come at a better time. When so many people both in the church and in society seem hopelessly divided over pressing ethical issues, Rubio shows us a path forward by focusing on the often overlooked importance of local communities, neighborhood organizations, and churches as ways of gathering us together to find common ground we may not have thought to be possible. Clearly written, richly researched, balanced, and eminently accessible, *Hope for Common Ground* deftly exemplifies how Catholic social teaching can aid us in addressing some of the most contested issues that confront us. It's a gift for anyone concerned about the common good."Paul J. Waddell, Professor of Theology Religious Studies, St. Norbert College"*In Hope for Common Ground*, respected theological ethicist Julie Hanlon Rubio offers a fresh, balanced, insightful, and cumulatively persuasive case for local engagements around commonly-held values as a way beyond the stale left-right, liberal-conservative polarizations that beset so many US Catholics and their neighbors today. Never denying nor forgetting the indispensable places of the personal and the structural levels for advancing human well-being, justice, and the common good, Rubio argues that on-the-ground Catholic and Christian communities possess a special genius for and calling to activism in 'the spaces between' the personal/familial and the political: in neighborhoods, civic life, local institutions, voluntary associations and grassroots organizing."Christine Firer Hinze, Professor of Theology, Director, Francis Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies, Fordham UniversityAbout the AuthorJulie Hanlon Rubio is a professor of Christian ethics at St. Louis University. She is the author of *Family Ethics: Practices for Christians* (GUP 2010) and *A Christian Theology of Marriage and Family*, and coeditor of *Readings in Moral Theology* No. 15: *Marriage*.