

## Acknowledgments

It takes a village to write a book. Those in the little village that came together to write this book all share one thing in common: deep respect for the life and work of Dr. Paul Farmer and deep sadness at his unexpected death at 62 years old. As is often the case when someone dies in the prime of life, especially without warning, the grief experienced by those left behind is always mixed with shock and disbelief because, although we are constantly reminded that we do not know the day or the hour, we are again caught off guard because we always think we will have more time. The sad news that there would be no more time on this earth with Paul Farmer reverberated throughout the world. All who knew him personally were heartbroken and those who knew him by reputation were also devastated by this loss, because Paul Farmer's love for all humanity and untiring work for justice was inspiring and he modeled what was good and right in the world. In the days following his death, as the reality of his death set in, people from all walks of life across the globe, sought consolation within their own networks and communities.

Theologians around the world were among the many groups reaching out to one another to express sorrow about the magnitude of this loss and to share the ways in which their thinking, writing and teaching had been influenced by Paul's scholarship and his extraordinary success in translating theory into praxis through the work of Partners In Health. On February 22, 2022, the day after Paul's death, Therese Lysaught reached out to fellow theologians Meghan Clark, Andrea Vicini, and Alexandre Martins. She knew they would be feeling as she was—deeply saddened by Paul's passing, and reflecting about the scope and importance of his contribution to the Catholic moral theology. Lacking an exact plan but searching for a way to recognize this insight, Therese proposed that perhaps they should try to pull together a symposium of short essays for the July issue of the *Journal of Moral Theology* (JMT). Their immediate and enthusiastic 'yes' affirmed that there was crucial work to do here.

## *Acknowledgments*

The editorial staff of the *Journal*—Alexandre plus William Collinge, Mary Doyle Roche, Jason King, Chris McMahon, Mari Rapela Heidt, Kate Ward, and Jean-Pierre Fortin—wholeheartedly concurred. They helped give flesh to this nascent idea and then wisely suggested the project be expanded. They envisioned something more substantial than a symposium with the limits imposed by a three-month turnaround and suggested a book project that would give the contributors more time for scholarly development, befitting the magnitude of Farmer's life, work, and witness. The decision was made to undertake this book-length study, to be published on the first anniversary of his death. Therese invited Alexandre to co-edit the book with her, and they quickly moved ahead to develop the plans for the book as an ambitious timeline would be needed to meet the February 2023 publication date.

The very next day, an initial query was presented to the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church (CTEWC) planning committee about the possibility of including such a volume in the collaborative JMT/CTEWC book series; again, the idea met with a heartfelt and positive response. With a green light to pull together a proposal, we began inviting contributors. Perhaps it was providence that as Therese tuned in to the bi-weekly webinars hosted by the Duke Divinity School's Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative on March 4, Jennie Weiss Block, a theologian and long-time colleague and friend of Paul Farmer, was the scheduled presenter. Her own grief still fresh, she spoke movingly to a community of scholar-practitioners interested in the interface of theology and medicine about what she had learned about accompaniment from Paul Farmer. We had obviously met our third co-editor.

We are grateful to the CTEWC for accepting our proposal, making this the fourth volume in the JMT/CTEWC series. We were particularly keen to be part of this initiative as it seemed that a book on Paul Farmer and theological ethics should be open access, available to scholars and practitioners around the world, not locked behind a paywall or difficult to obtain due to shipping and supply chain constraints. We hope that the e-book version will bring the good news of Farmer's work and witness to

## *Acknowledgments*

places where he still not known. We were certain that making this book available to those with limited access would be especially pleasing to Dr. Farmer.

It indeed takes a village to write a book, especially in a one-year period with a project involving nineteen contributors along with the multiple other essential parties needed to bring a book project to fruition, and many thanks are in order. We are grateful to everyone involved in this project who added this book to their workload, rearranging busy schedules to find the time to participate—the level of commitment and cooperation speaks to the love and respect all of us have for Dr. Farmer and the joy we have taken in honoring his legacy.

We are grateful to all the scholars who immediately and enthusiastically agreed to contribute to this volume. Many of them knew Farmer well and had worked with him closely. Thus, they wrote as their grief was still fresh and raw. We are especially grateful for their willingness to meet our tight deadlines, endure our email reminders, and graciously accept our editorial suggestions. They have produced beautiful and insightful work that introduces Paul Farmer to a new and larger community of scholars and practitioners and, we hope, helps challenge and advance the field of theological ethics in important ways.

The image on the cover of our book and the accompanying artist's statement brings to life what the book hopes to communicate in ways that words cannot. We would like to express our deep appreciation to Fr. Cristóbal Torres Iglesias, OP, for so generously and freely sharing his artistic and theological gifts. Fr. Cristóbal knew Paul personally, and this image, pressed down and overflowing with meaning, was created as an act of love and gratitude to Paul.

We would like to express our appreciation to Mary Block for her invaluable editorial assistance. Her outstanding skill at organizing content and editing with care and sensitivity to intended meaning has added greatly to this book. Mary was one of Paul's former research assistants and he is her son's godfather, and it is very meaningful to her to have been asked to be a part of this book project.

## *Acknowledgments*

We are especially grateful to the first-rate production staff at the *Journal of Moral Theology*, who proofed and typeset and formatted and corrected and proofed again and perfected the pages of this volume: JMT/CTEWC book series co-editor Jason King, senior editor William Collinge, and editorial assistant Aaron Weisel. While open access e-books meet an important need, we are also grateful to the team at Wipf and Stock, who have brought the gorgeous hard copy version of this book into print.

The unsung heroes in our village are our loving and supportive family and friends. This book would not have come to be without their patience endurance, good humor, and helpfulness. Bill, Meg, and Sam Riker knew how important Paul Farmer's work had been to Therese since 2003; she is grateful for their graciousness and good humor as this project became part of their lives as well. Jennie would like to thank her family, especially her children and their spouses, Chris and Catherine, Mary and Sean, Genevieve and Zisko for the unfailing support of her work, and her grandchildren, Sander, Annabelle, Jay and Daisy. They are her little hope givers, and she will always be sorry they will grow up without Paul's presence in their lives. And finally, Jennie would like to thank her amazingly competent assistant, Lisa Manoogian—she, too, knew Paul well and has been saddened by his death. Alexandre is very thankful for the patience, support, and hardworking of his wife Sydney caring for their twin babies, while he was working on this project.

A month from now, on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, book contributors and other friends of Paul will gather in Boston for a Memorial Mass on the first anniversary of his death. We are grateful to Fr. James Keenan, SJ, for offering this Mass and for hosting a reception at Boston College to introduce the book to the world. Jennie's long-time graphic design colleague Gayle Bordlemay brought an additional element of beauty to this event, with her expert work on the book's cover, as well as a brochure, program and holy cards for the Mass and reception.

As we pause to consider what it means to mark the first anniversary of Paul's death, we would like to extend our thanks beyond those who made the production of this book possible and recognize all those in the huge

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and sprawling village where Paul lived and worked. Thank you to his many thousands of colleagues at Partners In Health sites around the world, and his academic community at Harvard Medical School, all of whom, in the midst of their own grief and deep sadness, have carried on, going forward with hope, knowing full well this is what Paul would expect. Partnership and accompaniment were the cornerstones of Paul's praxis, and he was fully aware that all he accomplished was done because he had magnificent partners and *accompagneurs* every step of the way. No doubt many of you will see yourselves and your work in this book, and we take this opportunity to extend our sympathy and gratitude to each one of you.

Of course, no one has felt the searing and irreversible loss of this good man more acutely than his family. His mother, Ginny, his wife Didi, his children, Catherine, Elisabeth and Sebastian, and his siblings Jim, Jeff, Katie, Jennifer and Peggy have lost a loving son, a devoted husband and father, and a faithful brother. The editors, contributors, and all associated with the publication of this book, join so many others in thanking Paul's family for so generously sharing him with the world. May his legacy continue to shine brightly and bear great fruit and bring each of you consolation, peace, and hope.

Jennie Weiss Block, OP, M. Therese Lysaught, and Alexandre A. Martins

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

January 25, 2023