

“Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: Richard Rohr on the Legacy of St. Francis” was disappointing. Unfortunately, I would not recommend this resource for adult formation groups. We are using this for a Fall Spiritual Formation group in 2014 and it has been disappointing. For starters, the video sessions include seven older white Americans talking in a circle. While this may represent many of our congregations in Maine at present, it certainly does not represent the church at large. The lack of diversity is disturbing. The content themes are deep and intriguing, but they are discussed without any introduction or explanation at all. Most of our participants have found it very difficult to discuss such topics without first having some background information. Lastly, I personally am disappointed that the study does not actually speak about St. Francis at all. Richard Rohr refers to Francis, seemingly with the assumption that the participants already know about him. That assumption has not been helpful in our context. Because of these issues, I would not recommend this Embracing Series study for other parishes in Maine. (from the Rev. Nathan Ferrell, St. Mary Church in Falmouth)