



The Anchor

Book Review

By Dan Beauchamp

Dressing with Dignity

by Colleen Hammond...

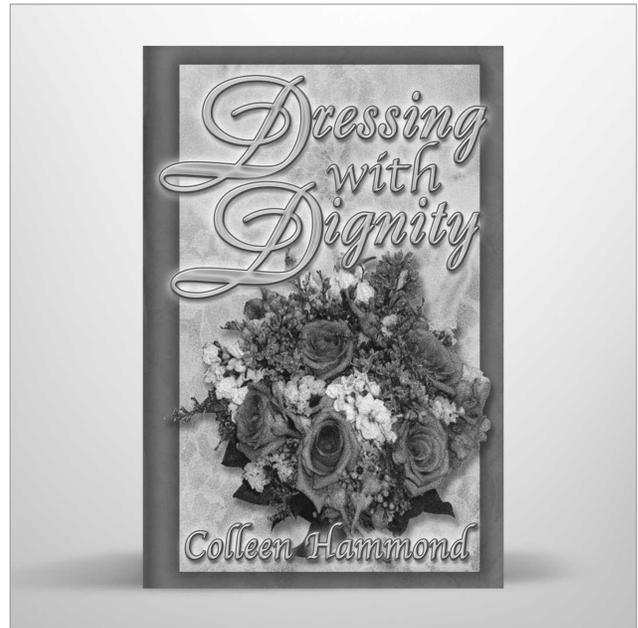
...is the answered prayer of many who have longed for this treasure trove of indispensable information on modesty in dress. This necessary 138 pages TAN book from former beauty queen, model, actress and cable network anchor Colleen Hammond, (who abandoned it all to be a stay at home mother), is one of the best informative books on the history of fashion found anywhere in the world!

The author offers us her fresh catholic perspective on fashion, backed by well researched information, helpful tips, quotes from various popes, scriptural passages and the teachings of the Catholic Church on the matter.

What will definitely captivate the reader is how meticulous the author is in explaining the history of fashion from the beginning of creation to our very own times. She starts with Adam and Eve and brings us through Old Testament times (around the world and in the Holy Land) to the New Testament era and beyond. The fashions of the Roman era to those of Asia, Africa and Europe are explained. She delves into Medieval society and elucidates how the nobility were astute in covering their bodies. She unravels how immodesty was in part a crime in several cultures and how severe the punishment was for those who broke the law of modesty. She recounts that starting in the middle to late 1800's, societies started shifting towards immodesty in dress in a very slow way but then gradually accelerated and gave us the great crisis we find ourselves in today.

The evolution towards immodesty in men and women's clothing is explained by the author: shorter dresses and sleeves, uncovered arms and legs, tight and irreverent clothing, the societal decline of feminine dress and the switch to men's clothing, the horrid bikini (that two piece bathing suit that reveals everything about a woman except for her mother's maiden name), and so much more! She reveals to the reader the great forces at hand responsible for this change:

our infernal enemies, the fashion industry (for much of it), various immodest and corrupt persons, the imprudence of parents and sadly, the faults of lukewarm Catholics.



Mrs. Hammond mentions the great efforts against immodesty brought on by various Popes, clergy, saints and lay faithful of the Catholic Church. To inspire and uplift us, the author encourages the reader towards a life of faith, hope, virtue, prayer and modesty. She expounds on charity of neighbour, especially when it comes to how we dress! She reports great passages on modesty from various papal writings of Leo XIII, St. Pope Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI and Pius XII. She shares with the reader great tips on appropriate fashions and concludes with a list of websites where Catholics men and women may find good and modest clothing.

I highly recommend this book for all parishioners who would like to see an increase of modesty in dress not only at our Parish but throughout the Church and the world. This book is truly a great tool for Catholics. **Stop by St. Clement Gift Shop and Bookstore and purchase or order your copy today!**

"Women must be decently dressed, especially when they go to church. The Parish priest may, with due prudence, refuse them entrance to the church and access to the reception of the Sacraments, any and every time that they come to church immodestly dressed" - **The General Pastoral Directive of the Catholic Church. (1915)**

"Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much!" - **Our Lady of Fatima. (1917)**