

Title: *Simone Weil & Flannery O'Connor: Images of Grace and Redemption within the Great Beast*

Abstract: Simone Weil, a French philosopher (1909 - 1943), and Flannery O'Connor, an American southern writer of fiction, (1925 - 1964) were on a theological quest, one through mystical philosophy and the other through fictional narrative. Both women, intellectuals and widely read, wanted to confront their readers with the need to recognize and honor eternal values by practicing true love of neighbor. We will examine Simone Weil's essay on "Morality and Literature" and Flannery O'Connor's second and final novel, "The Violent Bear it Away," in light of their notion of value.

Bio: Elizabeth Jane Doering, Professor in the College of Arts and Letters of the University of Notre Dame, PhD. French, Northwestern University, December 1992. 19th and 20th century French literature and culture. Dissertation: "The Development of Simone Weil's Social and Political Thought." Books: Both published by the University of Notre Dame Press: *The Christian Platonism of Simone Weil* (2004), *Simone Weil and the Specter of Self-perpetuating Force* (2010). Member of the American Weil Association and of the Association pour l'étude de la pensée de Simone Weil. Over three dozen articles published in the Cahiers Simone Weil and other publications. Among other honors, a recipient of the Kaneb Award for Excellence in Teaching. Presently working on an extended manuscript that explores the intersection of thought between Simone Weil and American writer Flannery O'Connor.