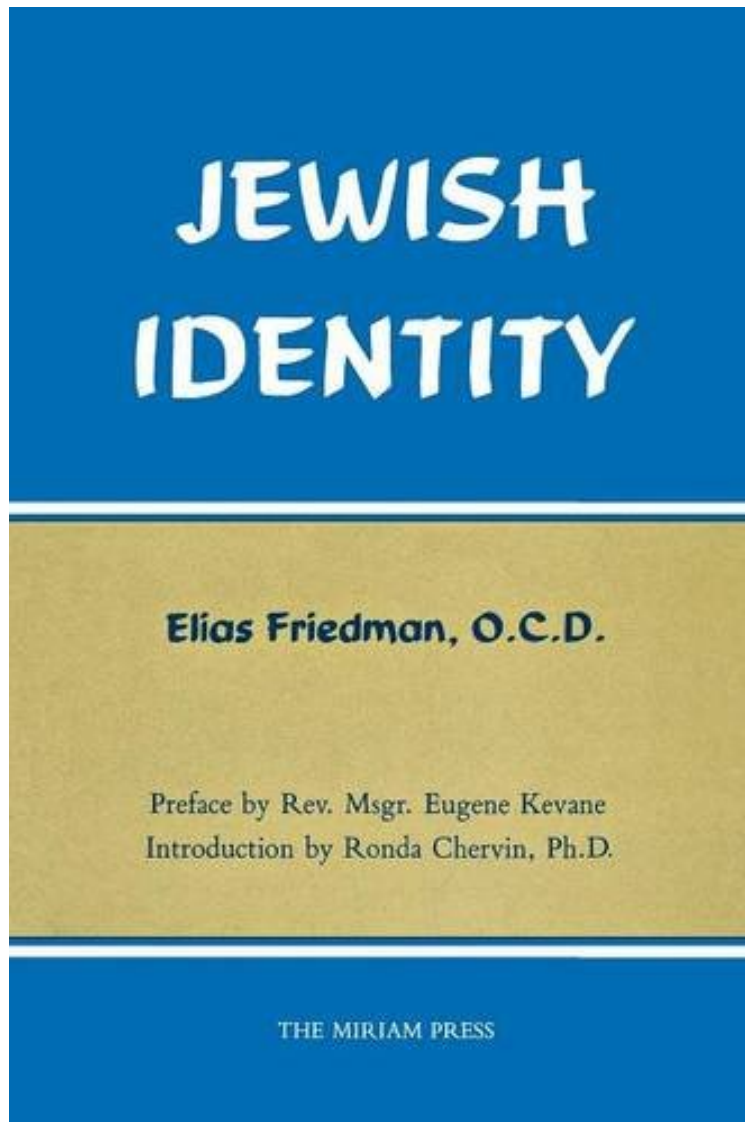


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Jewish Identity

O. C. D. Elias Friedman, Elias Friedman
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O. C. D. Elias Friedman, Elias Friedman : Jewish Identity before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jewish Identity:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. One of the 20 Best Books I've Ever ReadBy Regina DomanI read this book years ago and it was groundbreaking in my thinking about the Jewish people. Although I am a Gentile, I have always been a raving PhiloSemite: I find the Jewish people, Judaism, and everything connected with those two absolutely fascinating. So it was with intense interest that I picked up this book on the recommendation of a friend: the thoughts of a Jewish Catholic priest (that is, a Jewish man who became a Catholic priest) on the conundrum of Jewish

identity. Fr. Elias Friedman, who spent many years of his life living in the Holy Land in a Carmelite Community on Mt. Carmel, pondered the mystery of Jewishness for many years, and how a Jew could become Catholic and yet remain a Jew. These thoughts were intensified by his years in Israel as the State of Israel attempted to formulate answers to this same question. So he has written a short but remarkable book that answers the question and also discusses the thorny issue of the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. "The greatest fear of the Jewish people has always been their own annihilation," he writes frankly. This, says Fr. Friedman, is the largest barrier to entry that keeps a Jew from considering Christianity, for Jews who become Christians cease to retain any Jewish identity after one or two generations: they and their children become "Gentiles." Fr. Friedman argues that this is not what Christ Himself, a devout Jew, would have wanted, and he proposes a revolutionary solution. Suffice it to say that this book has confirmed and strengthened my love for the Jewish people, and that it has given me something concrete to pray for regarding them and my Church. Given the bland cover, you may not believe how profoundly remarkable this book is. If any of the above questions interest you as well, give this book a read. You won't be disappointed.

By Elias Friedman, O.C.D. Preface by Msgr. Eugene Kevane Introduction by Ronda Chervin, Ph.D. Jewish Identity is a prophetic reading of the signs of the times, the fruit of a lifetime of prayer and study by Father Elias Friedman, O.C.D. The author, a Jewish convert, analyzes with scholarship and spiritual insight the great drama entailing the apostasy of the Gentiles and the return of the Jews to Palestine. Political and Spiritual Zionism, the role of Israel in salvation history, and the self-understanding of the Jews are all treated in this book. The new international organization founded by Father Elias, the Association of Hebrew Catholics, is an early manifestation of the spiritual insights contained in this work. In a parallel development, the Church, beginning with Vatican Council II, has been updating its teaching regarding Jews and Judaism. The relevant material, included in the book's appendix, bears witness to the thought of Father Elias.