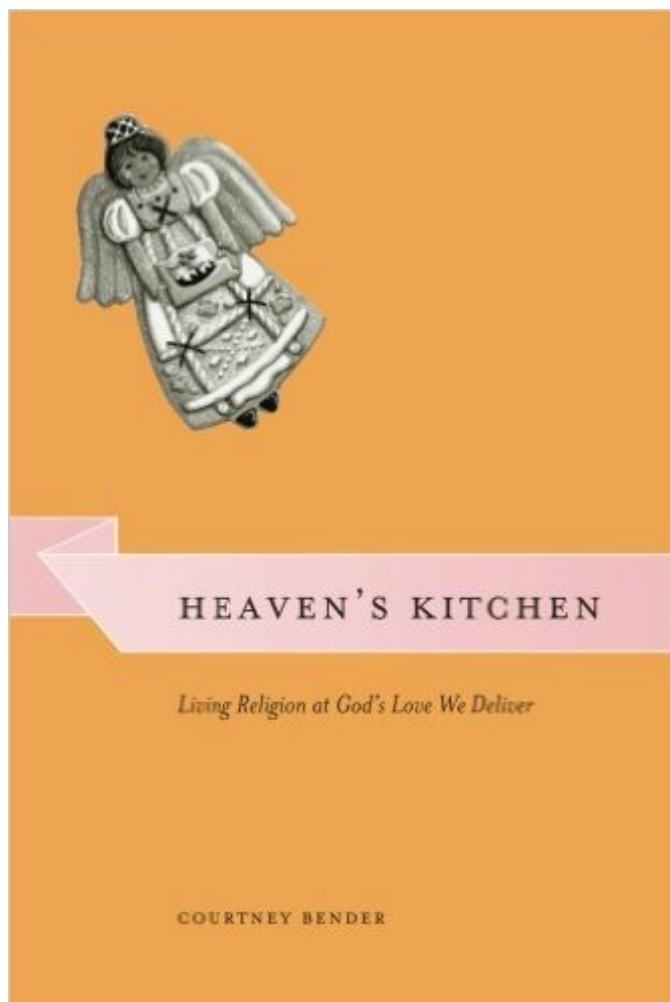


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# Heaven's Kitchen: Living Religion At God's Love We Deliver (Morality And Society Series)



## Synopsis

How do people practice religion in their everyday lives? How do our daily encounters with people who hold different religious beliefs shape the way we understand our own moral and spiritual selves? In Heaven's Kitchen, Courtney Bender takes a highly original approach to answering these questions. For more than a year she worked in New York City as a volunteer for a nonprofit, nonreligious organization called God's Love We Deliver, helping to prepare home-cooked meals for people with AIDS. Paying close attention to what was said and not said, Bender traces how the volunteers gave voice to their moral positions and religious values. She also examines how they invested their conversations, and mundane activities such as cooking, with personal meaning that in turn affected how they saw their own spiritual lives. Filled with vibrant storytelling and rich theoretical insights, Heaven's Kitchen shows faith as a living practice, reshaping our understanding of the role of religion in contemporary American life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a wonderful book. Nicely written; thoughtful; and insightful. Professor Bender of Columbia University spent months observing the actions, conversations, and ideas of volunteers and workers at God's Love We Deliver in New York. What she found abounded in ironies about religion and spirituality in the everyday lives of people. Dr. Bender found that an organization with "God" in the title actually had very little overt conversation about God; Dr. Bender found that volunteers brought

spiritual feelings to their work, often in the silences and quiet times of the labor. This is a fabulous book about religion in everyday life and how people make sense of their spiritual lives in various means. Recommended for all scholars of religion in America and for those interested in spirituality and volunteer organizations.

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