“Thank you, Matthias Beier, for introducing Eugen Drewermann to American pastoral theologians and pastoral psychotherapists. A Violent God-Image is a gift to psychotherapists and should be added to our pastoral theology canon. Drawing upon his depth of personal experience and brilliant scholarship, Eugen Drewermann also understands violence through the lens of depth psychology. His insights about the biological and psychological origins of violence can be directly applied to clinical practice. However, A Violent God-Image deserves a wider audience. The world is desperate for Drewermann’s wisdom in this fearful time.”
—Margaret Kornfeld, Past President, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, author of Cultivating Wholeness: A Guide to Care and Counseling in Faith Communities

“Our time has known two thinkers of dazzling brilliance: the German Eugen Drewermann and the French René Girard. Girard’s thought has penetrated numerous fields: literary criticism, psychoanalysis, economics, and, not least, theology. Though a sensation in Europe, Drewermann is virtually unknown in America, due to the lack of translation. Matthias Beier has done the next best thing: he has provided a condensation and commentary that makes Drewermann’s thought accessible, in hopes that some enterprising press will see to the publication of more by this seminal thinker.”
—Walter Wink, author of The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of Man

“A Violent God-image is the first theological treatment I have seen that takes the integration of psychoanalysis and religion seriously. The result is a profoundly more human cast to otherwise abstract theological propositions.... Drewermann’s approach ... opens the way to a potential new era of theological reflection centered on the integration of theological principles and doctrines with fundamental human concerns and psychic realities.... I would recommend Beier’s treatise for its inherent interest and for its potential for stimulating more psychologically meaningful theological reflection.”
—W. W. Meissner, author of Psychoanalysis and Religious Experience and Treatment of Patients in the Borderline Spectrum

“This first full-length volume in English on the thought of Eugen Drewermann is a welcome and long-overdue introduction to the groundbreaking work of the most prolific theological writer in the German language over the past twenty years.... We are indebted to Beier for undertaking a translation task only a native German speaker could accomplish, given the complexity and technicality of Drewermann’s prose.”
—Walter Rollins, Review of Biblical Literature, 2005

“A fascinating book! Beier brings to an English-speaking audience a profound and challenging Christian voice from Germany. In his homeland that voice has elicited the twin responses of excitement from a reading public that made his works bestsellers and of fear from his church’s hierarchy that sought to silence him. The book will be welcomed by those who labor on that frontier where faith and life collide.”
—John Shelby Spong, author of A New Christianity for a New World

“This work is essential reading for every biblical scholar, every psychologist, particularly psychologists of religion, and professionals in the field of theology, ethics, and pastoral care. Sell your bed and buy this book!”

“Our field owes a debt of gratitude to Eugen Drewermann, who may be the most important thinker in the field of religion and psychoanalysis during the past century, and to Matthias Beier, who has translated and explained Drewermann’s ideas in what may be the most important English book on religion and psychoanalysis during the past century.... For a psychoanalyst, parent, politician, or preacher inclined to read one book on religion, this is the book. It is not a riff on spirituality. It contains a masterful integration of textual exegesis, comparative religion, cultural anthropology, and psychoanalysis....a book destined to be life-changing for many readers.”
—Gary Ahlskog, The Psychoanalytic Review, past President of the Training Institute of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis, Senior Editor of The Guide to Pastoral Counseling and Care

On the significance of Drewermann’s work:
"Drewermann’s contribution is indispensable for two reasons: because he takes mental/spiritual suffering seriously and works for the liberation of those who, ‘crippled by fear all their lives, are prevented from risking themselves.’ Secondly, because he does something for the world-wide church that Latin-American liberation theologians cannot achieve but need: he challenges the mega institution's attempt to stabilize power by means of fear and names authoritarian religion ‘a form of violence.’”
—Dorothee Sölle, author of The Silent Cry and Suffering