

Back in October we received an email from two Orthodox sisters in the USA, Zoe, and Lexi Doukakis, informing us of their Orthodox children's book titled *Why Did God Make Beasts & Bugs?* The book is published through Narthex Press, led by Reverend Peter Salmas and Konstantine Salmas, M.Div., and is a recent project born out of their shared love for the Orthodox faith and a deep appreciation for God's creation. After a brief email exchange, they sent me a copy of the book to examine.

It is a good quality, beautifully illustrated, hard-cover book which invites young readers to view even the "scary" animals and insects with a sense of wonder and gratitude, recognizing that every creature has a God-given purpose and that all of creation reflects God's ongoing love, wisdom, and beauty. They explained that 'through the lens of various animals, we explore how their existence can reflect virtues we, too, are called to practice. In this way, children are gently guided to appreciate creation and to understand how God can use every opportunity, even His creatures, to teach us about the virtues we are called to imitate.' It would be suitable for children with a reading age between 6-7 years and certainly suitable for parents to read to younger children. The fully illustrated book is also a delight to read and younger children will be able to grasp the storyline from the illustrations.

Here are their details:

Website: <https://www.lexizoebooks.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lexizoebooks/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lexizoebooks>