

St. Robert Bellarmine – RCIA

Suggested Reading

There is an incredible richness of good spiritual reading that will deepen and expand our spiritual lives. Here is only a beginning, even if a bit subjective. If you have questions, please contact us.

Scripture

- *The Bible*, New American, or RSV-Catholic Edition
- *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, or *The Navarre Bible and Commentary*
- *Scripture Matters: Essays on Reading the Bible from the Heart of the Church*, by Scott Hahn
- *Where We Got the Bible: Our Debt to the Catholic Church*, by Henry G. Graham
- *You Can Understand the Bible: A Practical and Illuminating Guide to Each Book of the Bible*, by Peter Kreeft
- *The World of St. Paul*, by Joseph Callewaert

Introduction to the Catholic Church

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger and Pope Benedict XVI
- *The Catholic Source Book*, by Harcourt Religion Publishers
- *Where is That In the Bible*, by Patrick Madrid
- *Why Is That in Tradition?* by Patrick Madrid
- *What Catholics Really Believe: 52 Answers To Common Misconceptions About the Catholic Faith*, by Karl Keating
- *Why Do Catholics Do That? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church*, by Kevin Orlin Johnson, Ph.D.
- *Biblical Proofs for Catholic Truths*, by Dave Armstrong
- *Orthodoxy*, by G.K. Chesterton
- *More Christianity: Finding the Fullness of the Faith*, by Fr. Dwight Longenecker. Also *Adventures in Orthodoxy* (to be republished later this year)

The Mass

- *Mass Appeal*, by Jimmy Atkin
- *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, by Edward Sri, S.T.D.
- *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*, by Scott Hahn

Church History

- *Triumph: The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church*, by H.W. Crocker III
- *Ten Dates Every Catholic Should Know: The Divine Surprises and Chastisements That Shaped the Church and Changed the World*, by Diane Moczar
- *The Catholic Martyrs of the Twentieth Century: A Comprehensive World History*, by Robert Royal

Mary

- *Mary, Mother of the Son*, by Mark Shea (three books)
- *Meeting Mary: Our Mother in the Faith*, by Kenneth J. Howell
- *The Reed of God*, by Caryl Houselander

- *The World's First Love*, by Bishop Fulton Sheen

Spirituality and Prayer

- *Time for God: A Guide to Mental Prayer*, by Jacques Philippe
- *Interior Freedom*, by Jacques Philippe
- *Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer*, by Thomas Dubay, S.M.
- *Secrets of the Interior Life*, by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez
- *Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life: A Practical Guide to Prayer for Active People*, by Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.
- *The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living*, by Timothy M. Gallagher, O.M.V.
- *The Heat of Catholic Prayer: Rediscovering the Our Father and the Hail Mary*, by Mark Shea
- *Heaven, the Heart's Deepest Longing*, by Dr. Peter Kreeft
- *The Way of the Pilgrim*
- *New Seeds of Contemplation*, by Thomas Merton
- *Tattoos of the Heart*, by Gregory Boyle, S.J.
- *Questions and Answers About Your Journey to God*, by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.
- *Contemplating the Trinity: The Path to the Abundant Christian Life*, by Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap.

Biographies, Saints

- *Story of a Soul*, by St. Therese Lisieux
- *The Secret Diary of Elisabeth Leseur: The Woman Whose Goodness Changed Her Husband from Atheist to Priest*, by Elisabeth Leseur
- *Song of Bernadette*, by Franz Werfel
- *A Holy Life: St. Bernadette of Lourdes*, by Patricia A. McEachern, Ph.D.
- *The Confessions of St. Augustine*
- *He Leadeth Me*, by Walter Ciszek, S.J.
- *Saints: A Closer Look*, by Thomas Dubay, S.M.
- *The Quiet Light: A Novel on St. Thomas Aquinas*, by Louis de Wohl (historical novel)
- *The Saints in My Life: My Favorite Spiritual Companions*, by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.

Meditations, Reflections

- *In Conversations with God: Meditations for Each Day of the Year*, by Francis Fernandez (follows the liturgical year; seven volumes)
- *The Way, Furrow, Forge*, (three small books), by Josemaria Escriva
- *The Heart of God: Prayers of Rabindranath Tagore*

Novels

- *Kristin Lavransdatter*, by Sigrid Undset (3 books). Also *The Master of Hestviken*
- *Green Dolphin Street*, by Elizabeth Goudge. Also *The White Witch*
- *Theophilus*, by Michael O'Brien. Also *Father Elijah* and *The Fathers Tale*
- *Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength*, by C.S. Lewis. Also the *Chronicles of Narnia* series (seven books).
- *The Divine Comedy*, by Dante

Further Reading

- *Abandonment to Divine Providence*, by Father Jean-Pierre de Caussade
- *The Practice of the Presence of God*, by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection

- *Introduction to the Devout Life*, by St. Francis de Sales
- *The Soul of the Apostolate*, by Jean-Baptiste Chautard, O.C.S.O.
- *Divine Intimacy: Meditations on the Interior Life for Every Day of the Liturgical Year*, by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen O.C.D.
- *True Devotion to Mary*, by St. Louis de Montfort
- *Into Your Hands, Father: Abandoning Ourselves to the God Who Loves Us*, by Wilfrid Stinissen

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A Few Recommended Authors

Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R. – Fr. Jacques Philippe – Thomas Dubay, S.M. – C.S. Lewis – J.R.R. Tolkien – G.K. Chesterton – Rev. C. John McCloskey III – Scott Hahn – Louis de Wohl – Fr. Robert Barron – Michael O’Brien – Bishop Fulton Sheen – Elizabeth Goudge – St. Josemaria Escriva – Bishop Luis M. Martinez – Timothy M. Gallagher, O.M.V. – Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap. – Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.

"Reading indeed has made many saints "



Finding the Word among words

Parting a veil of darkness,
I reach across the years
peering over your shoulder.

An exile from distant Eden,
seeking again wisdom,
understanding,
But more achingly,
searching, hoping for a glimpse,
a morsel of your Presence.

Teacher, guide, friend –
your words become portals of grace,
wordless pathways of wonder,
luminous, permeated with an
obscure joy.

And then I turn the page...

-- anonymous