

## Reference – September 2023

Book recently added to our collection are marked with an asterisk.

Because of the realities of shelf space, our “Reference” section contains not only the kind of book that you would normally find in a Reference section of a library, but also odds and ends that do not seem to fit in the other sections of the collection. It is actually a miscellany, of which the following are examples of some of the interesting reading in this section.

Alcorn, Randy – Money, Possessions and Eternity

Looking at the challenge of money and materialism, seeing money in the light of eternity, sharing our possessions, and stewardship – a call to Christian responsibility and accountability for material gifts given us by God.

All about Sin, edited by Peter Potter

A book of quotations about sin from a variety of thinkers, Christian and otherwise.

Allen, John – All the Pope’s Men: the Inside Story of how the Vatican really thinks

Written by the Vatican correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*, this is an informative and balanced look at the workings of the Vatican which has traditionally been a mystery to many Catholics and a bugaboo to many non-Catholics. It should put to rest many misconceptions about how and why decisions are made, where power lies, the role of the pope, and that of the bishops and cardinal-administrators. Note: this was written before the reforms of Pope Francis.

Altomose, Charlene – What You Should Know about Church History

Using the metaphor of a pilgrimage through history, the author gives a very brief look at the action of God in the history of the Church.

Anderson, William – Journeying through the RCIA

Written for parishioners or those accompanying candidates for admittance to the Church, this book describes the process of the RCIA which is now the way mandated for enquirers to enter the Church.

Aquilina, Mike – The Fathers of the Church: An Introduction to the First Christian Teachers

This very readable and interesting book looks at some thirty-odd figures from the early centuries of Christianity who have become revered for their witness to, and preservation of, the Faith. It gives a short biography for each and a selection of the person’s writing.

Armstrong, Karen – A History of God: the 4000-year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

A fascinating look at the developing idea of God through the history of these three religions. A lot of information presented in a very readable form.

Armstrong, Karen – The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts

A detailed examination of the historical development of the sacred writings of the religious traditions of India, China, Greece and Israel with a view to negate the present tendency to read these texts in a fundamentalist, literal manner.

Augustine, Saint – The City of God (abridged version)

A Christian classic, written during the breakup of the Roman Empire, by one of the early doctors of the Church. It is an overview of history as a struggle between good and evil, the City of God versus the Earthly City of the Devil, Despite being abridged, it is a challenging read for the modern reader.

\*Austriaco, Nicanor – Biomedicine & Beatitude: An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics

A serious read that approaches present medical challenges such as abortion and end of life termination within the search for beatitude or holiness (see the Sermon on the Mount) by people involved in the questions – the patient and the medical professionals.

Baillie, Gil – God's Gamble: The Gravitational Power of Crucified Love

An extended and wide-ranging exploration of the meaning of Jesus' Incarnation, Death and Resurrection that is the absolutely pivotal point of human development and history.

Baldock, John – Women in the Bible: Miracle Births, Heroic Deeds, Bloodlust and Jealousy

An encyclopedic coverage of all the females that are mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments. It gives the meanings of their names, the Biblical reference and an account of their life/deeds and their significance. Copiously illustrated by art of the Great Masters.

Barron, Robert – Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith

A good refresher read for adult Catholics with great insights into such areas as the teachings of Christ in the Beatitudes and the parables, the union of Christ with the Church, the Eucharist, and the life in the Spirit.

\*Barron, Robert – Light from Light: A Theological Reflection on the Nicene Creed

An explanation of what was laid out in the Nicene Creed by the universal church Council of Nicaea in 325 as the basic beliefs of Christians and which is still the liturgical creed of choice in many churches, particularly in the States.

Barthell, Manfred – The Jesuits: History and Legend of the Society of Jesus

A history that attempts to uncover the real nature of the Jesuit order in the mass of contradictory assessments made of its nature and power.

Benedict XVI, Pope – Questions and Answers

A collection of questions supposedly asked by children, young adults and priests during their audiences with Pope Benedict and answers given by him. How much editing has been done is unclear but there is a certain tone of subservience and unlikeliness in the phrasing of the questions and some touch of platitude and sanctimony in the answers that one does not expect from a hard-thinking theologian like Benedict.

\*Beyond the Sanctuary: Essays on Liturgy, Life, and Discipleship

A series of essays on the connection between liturgical celebration and various aspects of daily life, especially the Christian call to evangelization and transformation of the world.

\*Boff, Leonardo and Clodovis Boff – Introducing Liberation Theology

A clear introduction to a theological schema developed in Latin America to address the question of how to be a Christian in a world of poverty and oppression. The book covers the history of liberation theology, the main themes, and its relationship with the main body of Christian thought.

Bokenkotter, Thomas – A Concise History of the Catholic Church, rev. ed.

A history covering the following periods: The Church Triumphs over Paganism AD 30-600, The Making of Christendom 600-1300, The Unmaking of Christendom 300-1650, The Church in a State of Siege 1650-1891, and The State of Siege is Slowly Lifted 1891-1990.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich – Discipleship

Ethics

Letters and Papers from Prison

Life Together

The four volumes in a reader's edition offers the reader the essential thought of Bonhoeffer, including his seminal work on the nature of grace, with study questions and guides to related thought and resources.

Boochny, Ety – The Holy Land: Follow the Steps of Jesus

A quick illustrated guide to various sites in Israel and Palestine which were part of the Biblical record of Jesus' life. Information also given on tourist facilities.

\*Bourgeault, Cynthia – The Corner of Fourth and Nondual

An exposition of a rather idiosyncratic Christian philosophy developed from disparate sources such as Centering prayer, Teilhard de Chardin's cosmological thought, and Gurdjieff's Law of Three.

Bright, John – A History of Israel

A fairly exhaustive though readable history of the Israelite people, tracing their growth as a people and the development of their faith to the beginning of the Common Era. Though primarily intended for seminary students, this is an excellent book for anyone wishing to know more of the faith tradition out of which Jesus appeared.

Brophy, Don – One Hundred Great Catholic Books from the Early Centuries to the Present.

A varied recommended list of both imaginative and factual material which includes such disparate items as *The Life of Antony* by Athanasius, Meister Eckhart's *Sermons* and Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.

Brown, Raymond – The Churches the Apostles Left Behind

Brown analyses the strengths and weaknesses of seven churches established by Paul, Peter, the Beloved Disciple and that church addressed by Matthew's Gospel, after the death in the mid-60s of those who had personal or intense knowledge of Christ.

Brown, Raymond – Reading the Gospels with the Church: Christmas through Easter

Short, easy-to-read look by a major Biblical scholar at how the Church looks at the Bible, particularly in view of the present challenge of fundamentalism. He discusses the differences between the various gospels on the details of Christ's life and teachings, He shows how these do not reflect our modern obsession with historical accuracy, but rather the aims of the evangelists to present Christ and His meaning and significance to their contemporary audiences.

Bruns, William – Cenacle Sessions: A Modern Mystagogy

Seven structured sessions for new members of the Church to use to prayerfully remember the events leading toward membership in the Church and to make the transition to active membership.

Bunson, Matthew – The Catholic Almanac's Guide to the Church

Quick reference to a variety of topics including material on Church history, canon law, teachings of the Church, the Church calendar, Communion of Saints, and Eastern Catholic Churches.

Burrows, Millar – The Dead Sea Scrolls

An account of the discovery of the scrolls, the date of their composition, the community of Qumran which produced them, and their importance, particularly in reference to the contemporaneous religious environment of Israel.

Cairns, Earle – Christianity Through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church

Covers from 5 B.C. to the Twentieth Century, finishing with a look at present problems and prospects.

Calamari, Barbara and Sandra DiPasqua – Holy Places: Sacred Sites in Catholicism

With coloured illustrations, this book does a quick tour of a variety of holy places, some sites of Marian appearances, some sites of pilgrimage, and some churches.

Camille, Alice – Invitation to Catholicism: Beliefs + Teachings + Practices

An easy-to-read concise explanation of Catholic belief today with questions for further thought and suggestions for practices to solidify faith.

\*Camosy, Charles – For the Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action

Camosy traces concern for animal welfare and understanding of the goodness of creatures from the Genesis creation story through the history of Christian thought and practice to various pronouncements of the present and two last popes. These lead to an absolute expectation of care and nurture for non-human animals, and vegetarianism.

Carter, Cardinal Emmet – A Shepherd Speaks: Occasional Writings, Sermons and Papers

A miscellany of different kinds of material on various aspects of Christian life. As Joseph Bernardin says in the introduction, the book is like a mosaic of many small pebbles of insight making up a picture of a Christian whole.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – Catechism of the Catholic Church

An exhaustive coverage of the beliefs of the Catholic Church, authorized by John Paul II.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

A concise summary of the essential and fundamental elements of the Church's faith, compiled at the request of Benedict XVI.

Carroll, Colleen – The New Faithful: Why Young Adults are Embracing Christian Orthodoxy

An exploration of the faith of the Gen-X generation which has seen a resurgence in belief and traditional practice that has surprised those who thought that Christian faith was in an irreversible decline.

Catholic Health Association of Canada – Health Ethics Guide

A look at crucial health issues from the perspective of Catholic morality. Included is material on the communal nature of care, the dignity of the human person, human reproduction, organ and tissue donation, care of the dying, and research on human subjects.

### Catholic Source Book

The subtitle of the book summarizes the contents: A Collection of Prayers and Information to Help Learn, Renew, Teach and Live the Risen Life of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. So, it includes, for example, in note form, material on the liturgical year, various devotions, symbols, and origins of words and phrases.

Chadwick, Henry – The Early Church: The Story of Emergent Christianity from the Apostolic Age to the Dividing of the Ways between the Greek East and the Latin West, revised edition

An interesting examination of early theological controversies as Christians began to define what they believed in, and of various Church Fathers.

Clark, Stephen – Building Christian Communities: Strategy for Renewing the Church

The author sees the answer to the question of declining Church support as the creation of small Christ-centered communities which could foster the growth of a naturally emergent leadership from within the Church.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation: Replies to Certain Questions of the Day

Responding to questions concerning biomedical techniques which make it possible to intervene in the initial phase of life and their conformity with Catholic morality, the Congregation clarifies answers to some questions but does not repeat all previous Church teachings on the matter.

Connors, Daniel – Celebrating the Fifty Days of Easter: Daily Reflections for the Newly Baptized, RCIA teams, Catechists, Parish leaders, and Personal Enrichment

Using readings from the liturgical Cycle A, these are reflections for sustaining the joy of Easter.

Coren, Michael – Hatred: Islam's War on Christianity

This is a modern martyrology that records the lamentable persecution of Christians in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, both historically and in our own times. Very sobering reading.

Coren, Michael – Why Catholics are Right

Making a response to current anti-Catholic opinion and prejudice, Coren looks at the clerical sexual abuse scandal in the Church, questions about the Church's role historically in regards to events like the Crusades, questions regarding beliefs, and the emphasis on the value of life at all stages of development.

Crosby, Michael – The Dysfunctional Church: Addiction and Codependency in the Family of Catholicism

The author criticizes the Church for what he sees as an addiction to authority, power, and money. It is an environment that makes members of the Church into co-dependents who end up unloving because they cannot see themselves as lovable objects of gratuitous love by God. He discusses

his own experience in becoming wholehearted through the equivalent of the AA recovery program.

D'Angelo, Louise – The Catholic Answer to the Jehovah's Witnesses: A Challenge Accepted

The author examines the practice and beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses and give answers that Catholics can use against Witnesses' claims and beliefs.

\*Daye, Russell and Robert Fennell – Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities

Faced with the common modern problems of religious institutions, seen from the viewpoint of mainline Protestant churches – problems of declining church membership, revenues, and vital signs of life - the authors investigate thirty-five church communities that have recreated themselves into vibrant Christian witness in their environment. This investigation hopes to stimulate other Christian churches to consider the creative possibilities of their call to witness.

De Sales, Francis, Saint – Treatise on the Love of God

A challenging read in both length and expression for the modern reader but worth looking for gems that express the amazing love God holds for us.

Delio, Ilia – The Hours of the Universe: Reflections on God, Science, and the Human Journey

Short essays on awakening from isolated egocentricity to our place in an integrated evolving universe of the communication and mutual growth of all creation, driven by love. An easier perhaps less esoteric and challenging read than some of her other writings.

Delio, Ilia – Making All Things New: Catholicity, Cosmology, Consciousness

A challenging and rich read which attempts to meld scientific knowledge, including quantum physics with Christian (though neglected) concepts such as the unity of all creation in the body of the risen Christ, and the ongoing evolution of humanity and the rest of creation in a final apotheosis.

Delio, Ilia – The Primacy of Love

A very poetic meditation on love as the central force in creation, a creation created out of love for love.

Delio, Ilia -The Unbearable Wholeness of Being: God, Evolution, and the Power of Love

Speculative theology. Following the thought of Teilhard de Chardin, Delio explores the union of science and Christianity in the concept of evolution as a process of God's self-expression in love in the cosmos, toward its full expression in an evolved Christ, the Alpha and the Omega. It is a book for readers mature in their faith who are prepared for some challenging reading.

Donders, Joseph – Non-bourgeois Theology: An African Experience of Jesus

With the growth of Christianity in the Third World, this book will interest those who want to know how Christianity is being experienced in a non-European environment. It raises questions like the nature of marriage in African culture or the celibacy of the clergy.

Doohan, Helen -The Minister of God: Effective and Fulfilled

Doohan describes a contemporary situation in the Church which leads to stress and burnout in the people professionally and intimately involved in Church affairs, such as priests and religious. Reflecting on the ministry of Jesus and effective ministry in the early Church, she suggests a spirituality of wholistic integration, which could promote personal fulfillment and effectiveness.

Dorr, Donal – Option for the Poor: A Hundred Years of Vatican Social Teaching

Looking at the social teaching of the Church from the days of *Rerum Novarum* to the writings of John Paul II, Dorr limits his focus to what is called “the option for the poor” as reflected in official teaching, and not on a more comprehensive focus including civil rights, stewardship, ecology, and participation in decision-making.

Duffin, Jacalyn -Medical Miracles: Doctors, Saints, and Healing in the Modern World

Duffin examines Vatican sources on 1,400 miracles from six continents, spanning four centuries. Overwhelmingly, they are medical miracles, involving medical care and testimony. Despite changes in medical care and technology, evidence remains of the unexplained in these cases.

Dunning, James – New Wine: New Wineskins: Pastoral Implications of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

In the light of the reviving of the RCIA after Vatican II, and to help those involved in the process, Dunning gives a brief history of Christian Initiation, looks at some assumptions about the RICA process, gives pastoral suggestions for each of the four periods of the RCIA, and some implications of RCIA for some other dimensions of ministry.

Dwyer, John – Church History: Twenty Centuries of Catholic Christianity

Dwyer traces from the lifetime of Jesus to the present problematic situation of the Church as a living out more or less successfully its mandate to be the visibility of Christ to the world.

Eddy, Corbin -Who Knows the Colour of God? Homilies and Reflections for Year C

Short responses to some of the readings and prayers for the last year of the three-year liturgical cycle.

Eddy, Corbin – Who Knows the Reach of God? Homilies and Reflections for Year A

Short responses to some of the readings and prayers of the first year of the three-year liturgical cycle.



Elderbroom, Yvette – Naming Your Child: Christian Names

Covers over 250 names, giving their meaning and thumb-nail sketches of who in the Bible or Christian tradition was also named by that name.

English Spiritual Writers, edited by Charles Davis

A compilation of short biographical/critical essays of English mystics and authors, ranging from William Hilton and Julian of Norwich to Cardinal Newman and Ronald Knox. Written apparently for people with some theological knowledge, some of the material refers to controversies or issues that are not part of our everyday environment. So, this book is probably not useful to most parish readers.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: The Current Debate, edited by Ian Gentles

Essays on topics such as current trends in various countries, pain management and palliative care, treatment of groups like the elderly and the handicapped, and specific legal cases in Canada.

Evans, G.R. – The History of Christian Europe

Beautifully illustrated, this is what the title says - an accessible short history of the expansion of Christianity in Europe over 2000 years.

Fatula, Mary Ann – The Triune God of Christian Faith

Fatula attempts to present the Biblical foundation, the traditional development of the concept, the official Church position on the Trinity, and the contemporary discussions on the nature of the Trinity. Not an easy task given the nature of the mystery or the amount of discussion nowadays in the light of feminist critiques of much traditional understanding.

Ferder, Fran – Words Made Flesh: Scripture, Psychology & Human Communication

A book on human communication that integrates contemporary psychological insights with a spiritual dimension derived from Scripture. So, for example, Biblical statements on anger are reinterpreted in the light of present understandings of the difference between feeling and acting on anger and the deleterious effects on the person of repressed anger.

Ferris, Margaret – Compassioning: Basic Counselling Skills for Christian Care-givers

Primarily intended as a teaching tool in the training of people occasionally called upon to do counselling among their other activities, this lays out four stages in assisting people to enable them to resolve their issues.

Finding Hope: Stories by Teenagers, vol. 3

Stories by teenagers on where they find hope and inspiration.

Fleming, Austin – Preparing for Liturgy: A Theology and Spirituality

Written for people new to the preparation of liturgy, the book aims to increase understanding of the nature of, and reasons for, liturgical practice in order that the Church's praise of God may be as perfect in enactment as possible.

Foley, Leonard – Believing in Jesus: A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith

A useful easy-to-read book to refresh your understanding of the Faith. It is divided into themes around questions asked about the Faith with answers reflecting new emphases and interpretations coming out of the Second Vatican Council.

Fournier, Keith – Evangelical Catholics: A Call for Christian Cooperation to Penetrate the Darkness with the Light of the Gospel

An explanation of what it means to be a Catholic evangelical and how the present world situation calls for strenuous action of Christians regardless of identifying labels to evangelize the world.

Francis, Pope – Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship

Selections from various speeches, letters and other writings on the need for unity and cooperation respecting the dignity of all to create better societies. Of particular interest now is material on reconciliation, war and inclusion of the poor.

Francis, Pope – Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future

Written in response to the Covid pandemic, this book lays out a hope/plea for a paradigm shift in our economic/social setup to incorporate equally the poor and the marginalized into a society living in brotherly love and mutual concern for both human society and the environment.

\*Francis, Pope – Praise Be to You: *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home

Essential reading for Christians in an age of climate disruption and its consequent results – this encyclical explores an integral ecology that is derived from the duty of stewardship of God's creation which has been given to us. Francis challenges us to work together to safeguard creation and thereby properly praise God for what we have been given.

Gaillardetz, Richard – Ecclesiology for Global Church: A People Called and Sent

A book reflecting on the growth and nature of the Church as church through history and, under the influence and understanding of the Second Vatican Council, how the Church is morphing under global influences such as the rise in the influence and importance of the Church in Latin America and Africa, and the growing voice of women.

Gascoigne, Bamber – The Christians

A highly illustrated history of people through the last two thousand years who have been expressions of Christianity and its development.

Gibbons, David – Faiths & Religions of the World: Who Believes in What Where and When

Heavily illustrated oversize pages giving short summaries of most of the minor religions and more coverage of the major five.

Gilles, Anthony – Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Needs to Know

A short introduction to fundamentalism, the beliefs regarding the Bible of Catholics and fundamentalists, and a clarification of Catholic beliefs often attacked by fundamentalists, in order to provide answers when questioned by fundamentalists.

Gratsch, Edward – Focus on Catholicism: Catholic Belief and Practice

Based on a series of radio talks, these are a quick review of Catholic belief and an examination of practice covering areas like justice, family life, war, sexuality, and euthanasia.

Great Religions of the World

As one would expect in a book from National Geographic, this is a highly illustrated book with little in-depth text on Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Greeley, Andrew – The Great Mysteries: Experiencing Catholic Faith from the Inside out

Greeley attempts to clarify twelve essential matters of faith, like the nature of Christ, by starting with a detailed description of our lives, what we feel and experience, in order to come perhaps to a clearer understanding of what we say in a catechism. So, the book is a movement from our particularities to more abstract statements of faith, that is, from the inside out.

Groome, Thomas – What Makes Education Catholic: Spiritual Foundations

An interesting history of Catholic education, primarily aimed at teachers, tracing values education from Jesus to the present, following the philosophical underpinnings and values that shape how modern educators can develop citizens for a postmodern environment.

Groome, Thomas – What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life

Groome claims that eight qualities are shared by Catholics: a sense of sacramentality (finding the infinite in the finite), a feeling of community, an appreciation of human potential and fallibility, a concern for justice and the unfortunate, a reverence for tradition, and a conviction that care should have no borders.

Groothuis, Douglas – Unmasking the New Age

An evangelical attack on the mélange of Eastern religious influences, the occult and New Consciousness belief that is called New Age which Groothuis feels is attacking Christianity and Western culture in its denial of God and the need for grace in the face of human sin.

Hahn, Kimberly & Mary Hasson – Catholic Education: Homeward Bound: A Useful Guide to Catholic Home Schooling

An enthusiastic endorsement of home schooling with practical advice on curriculum and management issues, all based on a traditional view of the family as the premier teacher of children.

Handbook for Today's Catholic

A quick reference to Catholic belief with references given to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Hardon, John – The Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan

A really useful guide to more than 100 major Catholic authors and their writing. Hardon gives a short biography of the writer, a small selection from his/her writing, and a list of recommended books. Many of the works are still in print or are available on interlibrary loan from your public library.

Hillesum, Etty – Essential Writings

A selection from the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman who died in Auschwitz, displaying a deeply ecumenical mysticism,” drawing from both Jewish and Christian sources.

The Holy Land: Follow the Steps of Jesus, Jubilee Year 2000

Highly illustrated rundown of places and sites in the Holy Land with an association with Jesus.

\*Hopkins, Gerard Manley – Mortal Beauty, God's Grace: Major Poems and Spiritual Writings of Gerard Manley Hopkins

The area of main interest in this book are the religious poems, deeply passionate about God and modern in their innovation in language and expression.

Hughes, Kevin – Church History: Faith Handed On

An interesting balanced history of the Church from the days of Saint Paul to today. Divided into short sections for easy reading, written in lay language, it covers clearly the various developments in thought, spirituality, and conflict that have created our present Body of Christ.

Hunkeler, Leodegar – It Began with Benedict: The Benedictines: Their Background, Founder, History, Life, Contributions to Church and World

The title says it all and is summed up in the last words of the book “the Rule of the Patriarch of Monte Cassino, if faithfully followed, is a reliable guide to God.”

Imago Fidei: The Jubilee of Mercy

Short descriptions of churches included as particular places to observe Holy Years and also descriptions of the spirituality of John XXIII, John Paul II, and Francis.

Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas, edited by Anton Pegis

Selections from the *Summa Theologica* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*, designed for reading by university or seminary students. This work of a hugely influential figure in philosophy and in Christian thought makes for somewhat heavy going for most of us.

Jenkins, Philip – The New Anti-Catholicism: The Last Acceptable Prejudice

An interesting book about the deeply embedded prejudice in America against Catholics and the Church which has recently resurfaced in media in its reporting of the supposed stance of the Church against women, gays, the pedophile priest scandal, and support for right wing causes and organizations. It emphasizes the misuse of statistics and the sensationalizing of stories.

Johnson, Elizabeth – Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril

A book that raises some interesting questions about the relationship between the created world and God, the challenge presented by our present increasing ecological destruction, the role of sin in the widest concept of redemption. She suggests a vision of the “living God actively accompanying the world in its evolutionary and historical breakthroughs, its human sinfulness, and its universal suffering and death, with overflowing mercy that endures forever.”

Kasczor, Christopher – The 7 Big Myths about the Catholic Church: Distinguishing Fact from Fiction in Catholicism

Deals with some “hot button” issues associated with the Catholic Church but which are misrepresented in much media coverage and general conversation., including priestly pedophilia, homophobia, nature of marriage, contraception, misogyny, science, and indifference to earthly welfare.

Kauffman, Christopher – Columbianism and the Knights of Columbus: A Quincentenary History

The book in giving the history of the Knights of Columbus shows how their drive to assert Catholic identity and culture in the often unfriendly American environment reflected the spirit of Columbus and his newly discovered land.

Kelly, Matthew – The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Kelly saw that a disproportionate amount of activity in Catholic parishes come from a very small number of people. This led him to wonder what makes the difference between the highly engaged Catholic and the less engaged or disengaged because the answer to that question might hold the future of the Church. He came up with four variables: Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization.

Kelly, Matthew – Rediscovering Catholicism

Kelly challenges his readers to rediscover Catholicism as answering many of the hungers of the heart. The book is divided into the following parts: We become what we celebrate, the authentic life, the seven pillars of Catholic spirituality, and now is our time.

Kent, Michael – Bringing the Word to Life: Scripture Messages that Change Lives

Following the liturgical cycle of Year A, Kent, a psycho-spiritual therapist, presents a single theme for effective living from each Sunday's Scripture readings.

Knox, Ronald – The Creed in Slow Motion

Knox lays open the Apostle's Creed in an easy conversational style examining the basics of our faith. Originally a series of reflections for a congregation of girls relocated by war, it gives one the feeling of being in the same room as Knox, enjoying his humour and good sense.

Lawler, Michael and Thomas Shanahan – Church: A Spirited Communion

Serious reading on the Church as graced communion, prophetic communion, sacramental and ministerial communion, with material on the laity, the Hierarchy, and relations with other churches.

Lay Ministry in the Catholic Church: Visioning Church Ministry through the Wisdom of the Past

A short overview of the role of the laity in the history of the Church and an examination of the post-Vatican II situation which is an immense opportunity for lay people to exercise more fully their baptismal role of priest, prophet and king.

Le Gall, Robert – Symbols of Catholicism

An overview of symbols in the Catholic Church. The term "symbol" is fairly broadly interpreted by the author, including doctrinal elements like the Trinity, sacraments, hymns, gestures, vestments, and the liturgical calendar.

Letson, Douglas and Michael Higgins – The Jesuit Mystique

An interesting examination of various Jesuit charisms, such as missionary work, science and advocacy for the poor through history, and the order's contemporary relevance.

Lewis, C.S. – The Four Loves: An Exploration of the Nature of Love

A classic examination of the four kinds of human love: affection, friendship, eros, and charity, and their relation to our relationship with God.

Lewis, C.S. - God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics

A collection of nearly 50 essays written over a period of years and published in a number of different venues, but all reflecting Lewis' deep conversion of mind to Christianity and the high seriousness of the issues dealt with.

Lewis, C.S. – The Joyful Christian: 127 Readings from C.S. Lewis

A wide range of Lewis' opinions on a variety of topics reflecting his belief that the trademark of a Christian was joy.

Lewis, C.S. – Letters: A Study in Friendship

Latin letters (with translations) written between 1947 and 1954 to Don Calabria (the replies by Don Calabria were destroyed by Lewis to preserve the privacy of Don Calabria) and letters written to the Casa Buoni Fanciulli of Verona (founded by Don Calabria) in regards to getting copies of the letters.

Lewis, C.S. – Letters of C.S. Lewis

A variety of subjects written to a variety of recipients.

Life in Christ, revised in accordance with the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

In short question and answer format, the book's material is organized under the following headings, The Gift of Life, Christ the Life, Christ's Abiding Presence: The Church, Christ's Abiding Presence: The Sacraments, and Life in Christ.

\*Lombardi, Josephine – Disciples of All Nations: A Practical Guide to the New Evangelization

With heavy reliance on the pronouncements of the Second Vatican Council, and on those of Popes Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis, Lombardi defines the New Evangelization to which laity are being called in all areas of modern society.

\*Lohfink, Gerhard – Is This All There Is? On Resurrection and Eternal Life

A challenging read on the great question of life after death. Lohfink looks at belief or non-belief in resurrection in general thought, other religions, Jewish thought up to the time of Christ, and the various understandings offered in Christian thought on this matter. He tries to break down the automatic carryover of our understanding of time and space to the nature of eternity and God, while dealing with the nature of things one can speak of only through inadequate metaphors.

Lowery, Daniel – Following Christ: A Handbook of Catholic Moral Teaching

Based on Scripture and tradition, Lowery discusses first the foundations of the moral teaching of the Church, and then our relationship with God. The last section deals with our relationship with other people.

Lukefahr, Oscar – The Privilege of Being Catholic

Lukefahr explores how the sacramental principle that all things can be signs that lead us to God, based on the Incarnation of Jesus, makes the Catholic faith distinct among faiths, and has a profound effect on how Catholics view God, the cosmos, and life.

Lukefahr, Oscar – “We Believe...” A Survey of the Catholic Faith

Referenced to *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, this survey of Catholic belief is anchored around the themes of belief, worship, Christian life, and prayer. Questions and suggested activities follow each section to aid in further thought.

Mallon, James – Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission

A challenge to the Church to be faithful to its original mission of evangelism to all, rather than existing as a somewhat moribund club for members only.

Malloy, Joseph – A Catechism for Enquirers

Questions and answers on Christianity designed to lead enquirers to a deeper exploration of the Faith.

Marthaler, Berard – The Creed: The Apostolic Faith in Contemporary Theology

Based on the need for clarity and mutual understanding in ecumenical discussions, Marthaler examines together the Nicene and the Apostles Creeds, looking at the social and cultural factors that have shaped the creeds over time.

Martinez, Luis -The Sanctifier

Martinez explores the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives which should lead us to true devotion to the Holy Spirit, the Gifts of which are explored in the second section of the book, followed by the Fruits that Paul discusses. The last section of the book deals with the Beatitudes and how they reveal the action of the Holy Spirit.

McBrien, Philip – The Word of the Lord: Reflections on the Sunday Readings, 3 volumes

Looking at the A, B, and C cycles of readings for Sundays and major feast days, each cycle in its own volume, McBrien gives a major theme of each reading and questions to challenge the reader to action based on the text being studied.

McBrien, Richard – Catholicism, volumes 1 and 2

Volume 1 deals with the topics of human existence and Jesus Christ; volume 2 with the Church and Christian existence in its ethical and spiritual dimensions.

Mc Dowell, Bart – Inside the Vatican

Like most National Geographic Society books, this is heavy in great photographs and minimal text.

\*McGrath, Alister – Born to Wonder: Exploring our Deepest Questions – why are we here & why does it matter?

An interesting and very readable book on the persistent and probably unique need of humans to ask questions that science and rationalism alone cannot answer satisfactorily, but which are probably answered most adequately by Christianity.

McGrath, Alister – Return from a Distant Country

A life journey from scientific atheism and Marxist philosophy through a doctorate in molecular biophysics to Anglican ministry is the background to McGrath's passion for reconciling theology



and science and for the need he sees for public apologetics and education to achieve that reconciliation.

\*McGrath, Alister – Science & Religion: A New Introduction, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

As a text for a course in science and religion, this offers an easy entrance into the history of the apparent conflict between these two disciplines and the major topics of debate at this time.

\*McGreevy, John – Catholicism: A Global History from the French Revolution to Pope Francis

An interesting book on the many disparate and conflicting currents in Church thought and practice in the last two hundred years in regards to such elements as the organizational setup of the Church, the role of individualism, democracy, and the role of the poor, and expansion into the non-European world.

McKenna, Kevin – A Concise Guide to Canon Law: A Practical Handbook for Pastoral Ministers

A compact overview of the most important canonical issues facing pastoral ministers today, including the sacraments, the setup of parishes and dioceses, and the handling of property.

Miller, Stephen – Who's Who and Where's Where in the Bible

Fully illustrated, this a quick reference book of people and places mentioned in the Bible. From Hezekiah's tunnel to Deborah to Timnah, with a series of helpful maps, this book offers some answers to questions that occur while reading the Bible or listening to the liturgical readings.

Modern Catholic Thinkers: God and Man vol. 1

A very interesting selection of 12 essays from thinkers like Hans Urs von Balthasar, Gabriel Marcel, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin on a variety of topics dealing either with God or mankind.

Mooney, Christopher – Teilhard de Chardin and the Mystery of Christ

This book is an attempt to organize the theological thought of Teilhard into a whole, implicit in his work but never fully stated as such. It covers such seminal ideas as creation (evolution) coming to a final plenitude in the cosmic Christ, and Christ's death and resurrection as a victory over ambiguity in progress.

Morwood, Michael – From Sand to Solid Ground: Questions of Faith for Modern Catholics

Morwood looks at how the modern revolution in religious thinking raises the challenge of rethinking our ideas of God, of the beliefs of the Church, its identity, liturgy, prayer and sacraments. He claims that the Roman Catholic Church has refused to engage with these challenges.

Morwood, Michael – Tomorrow's Catholic: Understanding God and Jesus in a New Millennium

Morwood attempts to interface between traditional expressions of Catholic belief and the paradigm shift in thought that is signaled by the social, scientific and technological developments in the last few years. He sees simultaneously great changes in thought and practice that, though reflective of uncertainty and questioning, are full of the potentiality for change guided by the Holy Spirit.

Most, William – Catholic Apologetics Today: Answers to Modern Critics: Does It Make Sense to Believe?

The book starts with an examination of the possibility of rational foundation for faith, then looks at the claims of other religions, and, lastly, answers objections brought against specific Catholic beliefs, from a quite traditional viewpoint.

Muggeridge, Malcolm – The End of Christendom

A trenchant examination of the end that we witness around us of a shared Judaeo-Christian world picture. This gloomy situation is contrasted with a fervent belief in the ongoing salvific unfolding of the Kingdom of God in which we can choose to participate.

Mulligan, James – Formation for Evangelization: Reflections of a Catholic Educator

Writing from a Canadian perspective, Mulligan looks at pressing problems in Catholic education and sees the most important element in successful spiritual formation of teenagers being the teachers and their obvious witness of their lives and speech.

Nasuti, Nicola – The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano: Historical, Scientific and Photographic Documentation

Around 750 A.D. at Lanciano the bread and wine of the Eucharist became visibly flesh and blood and so have remained through various exposures. The miraculous elements are held at the Church of St. Francis in Lanciano, Italy.

Nevins, Albert – Answering a Fundamentalist

Answers to matters of Catholic faith which are attacked by modern fundamentalists on the basis of what they believe the Bible alone says about these matters.

A New Handbook of Living Religions

Various authors contribute short essays on a wide range of present religious beliefs in Part 1. Part 2 offers essays on cross-cultural issues such as religion and gender, diaspora religion, and the religion of Asian diaspora peoples in Canada and Britain.

Nicols, Aidan – The Shape of Catholic Theology: An Introduction to its Sources, Principles, and History

This is not an introduction to the belief elements of Catholic thought but rather an examination of the nature of theology as a field. The book covers the role of philosophy in theology, the use of the Bible, the resources of tradition, aids to understanding and a short history of theology.

Ninety Days: Resources for Lent and Eastertime in the RCIA

Designed as a help to catechists to prepare for Sunday catechetical sessions, this book focuses on Cycle A readings for Lent and on all three cycles for the Easter season. However, it might also be useful for personal reflection or retreats. It gives down-to-the-minute instructions of how to conduct sessions.

Nouwen, Henri – In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership

Under the headings of three temptations in leadership, Nouwen defines the temptation, the question it raises for the leader and the necessary discipline. The temptations are to be relevant, to be popular, and to be the leader.

Oddie, William – The Roman Option: Crisis and the Realignment of English-speaking Christianity

An exploration of the effects of the decision in the Anglican communion to allow the ordination of women to the priesthood, effects both on the Anglican Church itself around the world and on its relations with the Roman Catholic Church.

O'Murchu, Diarmuid – Doing Theology in an Evolutionary Way

Speculative theology. Reflecting on some new trends in theology as it interacts with science, particularly quantum physics and genetics, O'Murchu forecasts a paradigm shift in Christian theology which is basically "de-mythologizing" on steroids, with a great emphasis on the human factor. At times there is a somewhat annoyingly patronizing tone in the analysis of what has been our traditional understanding of God's interaction with us.

O'Neill, William – Catholic Social Teaching: A User's Guide

The author defines social teaching in terms of its history and key themes and then talks of its application in matters such as labor and the economy, racism, poverty, sexism, war, and immigration.

Orlin, Kevin – Why do Catholics do that? A Guide to the Teachings and Practices of the Catholic Church

Though a bit dated, this book attempts to answer a wide range of questions on topics from funerals to relics to the colour of the sky in Christian art. A book to be dipped into rather than read from beginning to end.

Ormerod, Neil – A Trinitarian Primer

Ormerod discusses what we learn about the Trinity in the Bible, what is defined in the Nicene Creed, and analogies that have been developed to explain this mystery. He touches briefly on the present concern about the genderized nature of the Trinity and gives suggestions for homilies on the Trinity.

\*Pacwa, Mitch – Wheat and Tares: Restoring the Moral Vision of a Scandalized Church

A close look at the Passion narrative to find in the behaviour of various participants in the narrative a condemnation of priests who abandoned their role of shepherd in their abuse of children and other vulnerable persons, and a possible source of healing for victims of the abuse. It is a searing read for all, including the innocent priests and laity who have been scandalized, but who also share the burden of the world's condemnation of the Church as a whole.

Pagels, Elaine – Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas

An exploration of early texts reflecting the period in the development of the Church when ideas and beliefs and what we now feel constitutes the New Testament were in flux.

Pastva, Loretta – Great Religions of the World

An illustrated introduction to other world religions, the history of their development and their main beliefs. Though written primarily for teens, the book does give a useful summary for adults wishing some background for events heard on the nightly news.

Patrick, Anne – Liberating Conscience: Feminist Explorations in Catholic Moral Theology

An exploration from the point of view of feminist theology of the concept of "conscience." From what and for what does conscience need liberating? What does it mean to have a conscience that adds to movements for liberation and justice in our time? Patrick goes on to examine the connection between conscience and community.

Pecklers, Keith – Worship: A Primer in Christian Ritual

In a multi-leveled answer to the question "What is Worship?" Pecklers covers the historical and theological basis for where liturgy is today, the relationship between public worship and popular religious feeling, the connection between liturgy and daily issues such as social justice, and present trends in liturgy, and the existence of the Church itself in the need to be reflective of all graced pilgrims.

Pennock, Michael – What We Really Want to Know...Answers to 101 Questions Teens Always Ask

Based on real questions asked in religion class by real students, this book covers core Catholic teaching and practices, relationships and sexuality, life decisions and controversial topics.

Perrin, Benjamin – Invisible Chains

A book on Canada's underground world of human trafficking, still highly problematic in Canada, with a useful list of organizations combatting trafficking.

Power, Michael et alia – Gather Up the Fragments: A History of the Diocese of London

A history commemorating 150 years of Catholic life in London, Ontario, and surrounds.

Prieur, Michael – Holy Ground: Holy Family Retreat House and the Retreat Movement in the Diocese of London

A history organized around the various priests and others who worked in the retreat activities at Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley.

Radcliffe, Timothy – I Call You Friends

Based in part on his life, Radcliffe looks at the definition of truth, its location in the teaching of the Church and other faiths, and how truth leads us to a friendship with God and others. In a variety of articles and lectures, Part 2 of the book focuses on commitment; Part 3 on mission and Part 4 on miscellaneous topics, including God and evil, and the sexual ethics of St. Paul.

Rahner, Karl – Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity

A major read of one of the great theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal – The Meaning of Christian Brotherhood

An interesting book exploring the various meanings of "brother" in non-Christian thought, contrasting them with the levels of meaning of "brotherhood" in the New Testament and the early Church. The ultimate meaning of brotherhood depends on our relationship with the Father through the Son, and is, thereby, a unifying force between various Christian denominations and with all humanity.

Ray, Stephen and Dennis Walters – The Faith for Beginners: Understanding the Creeds

The history of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds, examining what we believe and why.

Regan, David – Experience the Mystery: Pastoral Possibilities for Christian Mystagogy

The author discusses the revival of the ancient Christian practice of mystagogia, that is, the leading of believers to experience, to be initiated into, the central mystery of their faith, rather than depending, as is common, on intellectual understanding and assent to doctrine.

Rehrauer, Stephen – Theology for Today's Catholic: A Handbook

Reacting to a perceived need for adult education in the faith, Rehrauer discusses what theology is and the need for all Christians to become theologians. The second part of the book deals with the

life of Christ and how our understanding of Christ shapes our theology. He ends with a discussion of salvation and the demands it makes of us.

### Remembrance Book

For use of participants in the RCIA process, this book is designed to help on the journey to full communion with the Church. A rich variety of meditations on the liturgical seasons, inspirational poems, prayers and writings by various authors, snippets of saints' lives is given to aid the process of conversion.

### Richards, Hubert – What Christians Believe: The Creed, The Ten Commandments, The Sacraments, Holy Communion

Very short explanations, illustrated by photographs, designed for teenagers and young adults.

### Richards, James – Preparing Morning and Evening Prayer

The aim of the book is to take the *General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours*, promulgated in 1971, along with the history of prayer of the Church, and give practical ways to implement this form of liturgical prayer in the life of one's community, in order to more completely fulfill Christians' call to pray unceasingly.

### Roberts, David -Yesterday the Holy Land

Drawings of Egypt and the Holy Land made by the Scottish artist Roberts in the mid-Nineteenth Century.

### \*Rohr, Richard – The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation

A very interesting book on the Trinity that will transform your understanding of God and our relationship with Him.

### \*Rohr, Richard – The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe

An exploration of the nature and activity of Christ, the reality that underlies all of creation, both before and after the existence of Jesus who is the manifestation of Christ in human form. The radical nature of God in creation leads us to a different relationship with the rest of creation.

### Rome and Vatican,

Two tourist books of photographs with explanatory text.

### Rue, James and Louise Shanahan – A Catechism for Divorced Catholics

A useful book for Catholics facing divorce or having gone through divorce proceedings, explaining the Church's answers to questions. Also includes a history of divorce, a somewhat dated section on trends in divorce in the United States, and the process of annulment.

The Rule and Statutes of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The most recent version for Canada of the governing framework of the Society.

Ryan, Michael – In the Light of Faith

Written by a priest of our diocese, this is an easy-reading exploration of the nature of faith, covering such topics as its relationship to science, our understanding of papal supremacy, fundamentalism, and social justice.

Ryan, Michael – The Social Attitudes of a Catholic

Written by a priest in our diocese, this is an easy-reading exploration of the concept of social justice, covering very widely ranging topics such as human rights, the handling of money, co-operatives and credit unions, immigration, and Third World debt.

Ryan, Michael – Solidarity: Christian Social Teaching and Canadian Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Ryan covers modern Christian social movements, their principles, and the theology behind them. He also examines the applications of Christian social teaching in the areas of property, poverty, immigration, work, leisure, labour unions, just employment, the economy and transnational corporations, agriculture and social change.

Ryan, Thomas – Tales of Christian Unity: The Adventures of an Ecumenical Pilgrim

In preparation for working with the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, the author spent a year visiting centres of other Christian denominations to learn more about them. This is an interesting account both of his physical journey which took him to Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Greece, Switzerland, and England, but also of what he learned of these other faith traditions.

Salone-Pelletier, Fran – Awakening to God: The Sunday Readings in our Lives, Year A and C

Reflections with references to the author's own experience are accompanied with reflection and discussion questions and prayer.

Sander, William – The Catholic Family: Marriage, Children, and Human Capital

A sociological examination of Catholic families and the effects of Catholic education on subsequent life in areas such as earnings and employment. As the material is based on statistics from the United States where the educational system is set up differently from other countries, the conclusions drawn may be irrelevant to Canada.

Schneiders, Sandra – Beyond Patching: Faith and Feminism in the Catholic Church

This is a primer on feminism, feminist theology and feminist spirituality that aims at giving the reader a basic grasp of the feminist movement, particularly in relation to Catholicism. The book feels a bit dated, but it might give the reader some insight into the basis in Scripture and Catholic ecclesiastical life for the outrage that some Catholic women have felt at perceived male oppression.

\*Schreiter, Robert – The Ministry of Reconciliation: Spirituality & Structures

Schreiter looks at the events which occurred in the days following the Crucifixion and sees in them actions of reconciliation which can form the basis of a spirituality for today in order to move forward with the many needs for reconciliation in our work between both individuals and communities. It is an interesting and illuminative approach.

Shea, Mark at alia – The DaVinci Deception: 100 Questions about the Facts and Fiction of *The Da Vinci Code*

The book is what the title says – a clarification and rebuttal of claims in *The Da Vinci Code* concerning matters of Catholic belief that have disturbed some believers.

Sheed, Frank – The Action of the Holy Spirit: The Lord and Giver of Life

The Third Person of the Trinity has often been somewhat neglected in popular Catholic faith. This book focuses on who the Spirit is, how the Spirit appears in the Bible, and the effects of its action in our lives if we are open to it.

Sheed, Frank – A Map of Life: A Simple Study of the Catholic Faith

Sheed gives an account of “what God, the Author of life, has revealed as to the meaning of the whole and the relations of the parts [that is, the elements of experience and of salvation history].”

Shepherds According to My Heart: A History of St. Peter’s Seminary

This history of the seminary from its beginning in 1912 to its restructuring a hundred years later is a centennial tribute.

Sister: The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of London

A brief history of the Sisters from their arrival in London in 1868 to the present.

Smith, Claire – Catholicism: Now I Get It!

A highly personal account of growing in understanding of the basics of Catholic faith. Covering such areas as the sacraments, papal infallibility, the role of the saints and Mary.

\*Spellers, Stephanie – The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community

Though written from the perspective of the American Episcopalian Church, historically connected to, and supportive of, the upper-class white establishment, and declining precipitously after Covid and the rising movement of black consciousness, this book has much to say about the need for Christian churches to respond to the Holy Spirit by becoming communities intentionally embodying and witnessing to God’s love to the world outside the walls of the Church.

St. Romain, Philip – Catholic Answers to Fundamentalists’ Questions

Quick answers to questions on Scripture and tradition, teaching authority and papacy, salvation, the mass and holy communion, devotion to Mary and the saints, human origins and destiny.



Sullivan, Paula – The Mystery of My Story: Autobiographical Writing for Personal and Spiritual Development

Strategies for remembering and understanding elements of one's experience are offered as aids to using journaling or recording of one's life because of the profound effects journaling can have on one's spiritual development.

The Teaching of Christ: A Catholic Catechism for Adults

This catechism aims at giving "a full and balanced account of the faith, an account that is accurate, clear, comprehensive, up to date, and in language readily understandable in the world today."

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre – Christianity and Evolution

Nineteen essays on various aspects of Teilhard's theological speculations on the increasing gap between the traditional view of God and man and the modern detachment from the traditional view because of an emphasis on the here and now. He sees resolution of this in a revised Christology.

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre – The Future of Man

Collected reflections on our social and intellectual evolution, our place and responsibilities in the universe, and our options for continued development or immobility.

Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre – The Phenomenon of Man

A summary of Teilhard's thought on the idea of the evolution of matter in complexification in the biosphere and the continuing evolution of humans in the noosphere.

Teresa of Avila, Saint – The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila, vol.II

Contains *The Way of Perfection* and *The Interior Castle* and also *Meditations on the Song of Songs*.

This is the Holy Land: A Pilgrimage in Words and Pictures

Fulton Sheen visits various places mentioned in the New Testament.

Tugwell, Simon: The Beatitudes: Soundings in Christian Traditions

An excellent Lenten read in which the Beatitudes are interpreted in the light of the understanding that salvation is not gained by doing good deeds or by apparent progress in goodness or other accomplishments, but rather in being totally aware of being unworthy servants, of being incompetent like children.

Vaghi, Peter – The Faith We Profess: A Catholic Guide to the Apostles' Creed

An explication of the Apostles' Creed which was developed to address the needs of those hoping to be baptized, an explication which the author hopes would enable believers to confidently explain the faith to the world.

Van Parys, Johan – Symbols that Surround Us: Faithful Reflections

An examination of our daily use of symbols and the symbolic acts that enable us to use symbols in our worship. He looks at sacred architecture and art as symbol, the symbolic furnishings, objects, clothing and gestures used in the liturgy.

Van Winden, Lori – The Case against Abortion: A Logical Argument for Life

The author looks first at conception and prenatal development, methods of abortion, pro-abortion arguments, the effects of abortion on the mother, and finally the effects on society.

Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents, volumes 1 and 2

A completely revised translation in inclusive language of the 16 conciliar documents and assorted following decrees and declarations.

Verheul, Ambrosius – Introduction to the Liturgy: Towards a Theology of Worship

Written as an explanation to both priests and laity on the theological background to changes in the liturgical life of the Church introduced by Vatican Council II in order to make the liturgy more meaningful and open for lay participation.

Walsh, John – The Bones of St. Peter: The First Full Account of the Search for the Apostle's Body

An account of the archaeological explorations below the present St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to find the possible remains of St. Peter, with some critical assessment of the success of this effort.

War: Four Christian Views

Four views of war are explained: Biblical nonresistance, Christian pacifism, Just war and Preventive war, in order to answer the questions of whether Christians should ever go to war, and if so, under what conditions and if not, why not. Each position is explored by a theologian and his ideas critiqued by the three theologians who espouse different positions.

Weigel, George – The Truth of Catholicism: Inside the Essential Teachings and Controversies of the Church Today

Weigel looks at ten controversies on subjects that are often misunderstood by critics outside the Church. They include such areas as suffering, moral laws, dogmatic statements, salvation only through Jesus, and liberation.

West, Christopher – Theology of the Body Explained: A Commentary on John Paul II's *Man and Woman He Created Them*

After an introductory Prologue on the human body, Catholicism and John Paul II, the author deals with the Words of Christ in reference to male/female relationships from the beginning of creation, His appeals to the human heart, and the life hereafter. Part II of the book deals with

marriage as a sacrament and the problems of contraception, regulation of births, and lastly a vision of conjugal spirituality.

Wilkins, Ronald and Mary Gryczka – Our Church in History: The Story of the Catholic Church

A textbook level of detail on what Catholics believe the Church is, its history and some material on the Church in Canada.

Wills, Garry – Why I Am A Catholic

Wills gives an account of his early life as a Catholic, answers challenges to his continuance as a Catholic in regard to the matter of the papacy, and his acceptance of the beliefs encapsulated in the Apostles' Creed.

Woodhead, Linda – Christianity: A Very Short Introduction

One of a series of “very short introductions” to a wide range of topics from Oxford University Press, this may be of interest to readers in its categorization of the Christian experience as being of three types – Church (with an emphasis on power and institution), Biblical (emphasizing the Bible as the central component), and Mystical (emphasizing the individual response to Spirit).

World Religions from Ancient History to the Present

Highly illustrated encyclopedia of religions. Note that the “present” is the early 1970s.

Yoder, Dave and Robert Draper – Pope Francis and the New Vatican

Brief but succinct look at the life and development of Francis and his early tenure as pope. Like all National Geographic products, this book has beautiful photographs.

Youcat: Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

An illustrated question-and-answer catechism for teenagers.

Zeno – John Henry Newman: His Inner Life

Insight into the Saint's personality through his life, friends and writings.

Zmirak, John – The Bad Catholic's Guide to the Catechism: A Faithful, Fun-loving Look at Catholic Dogmas, Doctrines and Schmocrines

A read recommended to add some lightness and humour to your day.