

Recommended Media from the Pastoral Staff

In This House of Brede - Rumer Godden. One of the finest authors of our time, largely forgotten, but who always wrote from a deep background of faith.

The Interior Castle - St. Teresa of Avila. A spiritual classic for good reason. Written for her sisters in the convent and much easier to read and understand than you may have been led to believe.

Catholic Christianity - Peter Kreeft. Puts the muscle on the "skeleton" of the Catechism, so to speak. This is the book that I read after converting and which brought my understanding fully into line with the teachings of the Church. Eminently logical.

Pardon and Peace - Father Francis Randolph. Fantastic book about the sacrament of reconciliation (or confession as I still like to call it). He takes interesting side trips in the discussion but they are always to the point and add depth.

Inferno - Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle. Science fiction authors update Dante's Inferno. This is somewhat like Dante "Lite" and is a wonderful introduction to the concepts Dante wrote about. It is the book that made me take a new look at self examination and then go on to read John Ciardi's translation of Dante's Divine Comedy. Not intended as such by the authors, it is a "gateway" book to Dante.

A Still Small Voice - Father Benedict Groeschel. Common sense, psychology, and faith as applied to discernment when it comes to apparitions. Highly recommended.

Angels of God - Mike Aquilina. Wonderful primer about angels and their relationship to us.

Captain from Castile - Samuel Shellabarger. The classic story of a young Spanish nobleman, Pedro de Vargas, who goes with Cortes to conquer Mexico. Rereading it, Washington Post critic and Pulitzer Prize-winner Jonathan Yardley says in his introduction he "was astonished at how well it has survived. . . . It is accurate, meticulously researched history, and it is a sympathetic, nuanced account of a young man's moral education..." Precisely. Such is also the same of Shellabarger's other books. A prime example of how an excellent piece of fiction can communicate "Truth." (Excerpts are [here](#) and [here](#).) Also a favorite, more than this book to be truthful, is Prince of Foxes by this author.

Fr. McBride's Guide to the Bible - Alfred McBride. There are several excellent guides to the Bible, among them "You Can Understand the Bible" by Peter Kreeft and "A Catholic Guide to the Bible" by Father Oscar Lukefahr. I chose this above those because it looks at all the books of the Bible in light of salvation history. An excellent guide to looking at scripture on several levels and keeping the big picture in mind.

Through a Screen Darkly - Jeffrey Overstreet. A masterful work by a noted film critic about bringing a spirit of discernment to the world of film. Overstreet invites us to consider how film as an art form affects one's soul and ultimately can be a work of God, even when it may go against what many define as "Christian." An excellent work that helps us learn discernment in our daily lives toward any sort of story telling.

Conscience in Conflict by Fr. Kenneth Overberg, S.J., St. Anthony Messenger Press

The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium, by Walter Wink, Galilee-Doubleday Publ.

Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Needs to Know by Anthony E. Gilles St. Anthony Messenger Press

You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for your Turbulent Times by Max Lucado, Nelson Publ.

A Concise History of the Catholic Church by Fr. Tom Bokenkotter, Doubleday Publ.

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From Apostles to Bishops: The Development of the Episcopacy in the Early Church by Francis A. Sullivan, S.J., The Newman Press

Straight Answers, Volumes I and II by Rev. William P. Saunders, Ph.D., Cathedral Foundation press

Women in Church History: 20 Stories for 20 Centuries by Joanne Turpin, St. Anthony Messenger Press

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich, Owl Books

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Penguin Publ.

Reading the Bible: A Catholic View by Steve Mueller, Loyola Press

Mary: A History of Doctrine and Devotion by Hilda Graef, Christian Classics from Ave Maria Press

Daily Prayer 2014 – Sunday Year A + Weekday Year II

A book of prayer for each day of the liturgical year.

By Corinna Laughlin & Maria Laughlin, Publisher: Liturgy Training Publications

Book/eBook at Amazon.com, eBook at BN.com

Description of book/eBook:

Daily Prayer 2014 draws on the long tradition of Christian prayer, especially “lectio divina,” holy reading, providing a simple order of prayer for each day of the liturgical year including daily mass readings with prayer and reflections from the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014.

At Home With The Word 2014

By James Campbell, Marielle Frigge OSB, Mary M. McGlone CSJ, & Lisa M. Orchen

Publisher: Liturgy Training Publications

Book/eBook at Amazon.com, eBook at BN.com

Description of book/eBook:

At Home With The Word® is your guide to a deeper understanding of the Sunday Scriptures. It provides the readings for this liturgical year, along with insights from Scripture scholars, and action steps. (Additional questions for reflection and discussion, as well as action steps are available for families with children, RCIA, and small faith groups, downloadable from the LTP Website.) Also includes prayers, citations for weekday readings, and other resources for Scripture study.

10 Best Gifts For Your Teen – Raising Teens With Love And Understanding

By Patt & Steve Saso, Publisher: Sorin Books

Book/eBook at Amazon.com, Book at BN.com

Description of book/eBook:

Raising teens with love and understanding is perhaps more challenging today than ever. While adolescence can sometimes be as frightening and challenging for parents as it is for their children, a strong parent-teen relationship can be both influential and rewarding. Patt and Steve Saso combine their expertise as a counselor and high school teacher with hard-knocks wisdom from the parenting trenches to offer practical and engaging guidance. They stress that parents are the only ones who can offer ten gifts that make all the difference for their teens.

- Respect
- Receptivity

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- Responsibility
- Room
- Reconciliation
- Role-Modeling
- Revelation of Self
- Resolve
- Release

Here are both the encouragement and skills parents need to build strong relationships with their teens.

***Habits of the Soul – Learning to Live on Purpose* By Linda Perrone Rooney, Publisher: Twenty Third Publications [Book at Amazon.com](#), [BN.com](#), [23rdpublications.com](#)**

Background on this book fyi: [Back of book & online description...](#) (Also says this book “is the Catholic answer to the *Purpose Driven Life*.” It’s written in a 40-day format, but is not specifically for Lent. The intro says it mirrors Jesus’ time in the desert, but that “now is the ‘acceptable time’ to examine your life.”)

Let this wonderful and powerful book guide you to form new habits in your inner life, habits of joy and peace, habits of generosity and a love for the poor. Let this book help you learn to live, to really live! This book transforms your life because it attends to your soul inside. It touches you in the deepest part of your being and taps into those things which make you most truly human! Use this book alone, or with friends in a small group. You will find its texture rich and its tone inviting. Even those who believe they have no spiritual life at all will find that this book takes them on a journey into the depths of their being. *Habits* is for all who seek God with a sincere heart and for all who experience a restlessness which cannot be named. It offers challenge, hope, consolation and motivation to take action on the single most important need in every human being: connecting with God and committing to living a life of purpose.

[Introduction of Book...](#)

“Now is the acceptable time. 2 Corinthians 6:2

The next forty days will mirror the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert preparing to undertake his mission. They are a time to pause in your busy life and turn your heart to God. Whether you are starting this journey as a Lenten exercise, or simply because the Holy Spirit has directed you to your need for spiritual renewal, now the “acceptable time” to examine your life. It’s a time to slow down, to take time each day to pray, to reflect, and to understand more deeply what it is the Lord wants of you. These forty days are an opportunity to make changes; to create new habits of the soul. It is a time to really live, to do so on purpose and to keep your eye on the purpose of life. Living on purpose means staying on course. It means deciding to deepen your spiritual life. And here’s the reward: at the end of these days you will have a more peaceful heart, deeper spiritual well-being, and a clearer sense of the purpose for your life.... But be forewarned: it will not be easy. The journey to the heart of the Lord is never made without effort. The process of living on purpose asks you to commit yourself to one half-hour, each day, for forty days. During this half-hour, you are invited to be quiet and still, to hold this book in your hands and use the exercises here to lead you to a profound encounter with Christ....”