

***Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day* by Chris Stefanick**

Joy isn't a luxury. It's a necessity. But how do we find joy—and hold on to it—when so much in our life stands in the way?

Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Live Joy Every Day equips you with the wisdom you need to experience joy to the fullest.

With evidence, experience, and common sense, Chris Stefanick presents nine rules that will empower you to overcome the obstacles that are keeping you from unspeakable joy.

You'll learn why

- gratitude is the first key to unlocking deep joy
- silence creates space in your life for happiness
- rest, friendship, and fun are integral to joyful living and so much more.

No matter the circumstances of your life, *Living Joy* will show you exactly how you can claim the joy you were created for.

***Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacque Philippe**

We live in a day and age characterized by an extraordinary amount of agitation and lack of peace. This tendency manifests itself in our spiritual as well as our secular life. In our search for God and holiness, in our service to our neighbor, a kind of restlessness and anxiety take the place of the confidence and peace which ought to be ours. What must we do to overcome the moments of fear and distress which assail us all too often in our lives? How can we learn to place all our confidence in God and abandon ourselves into his loving care? This is what is taught in this simple, yet profound little treatise on peace of heart. Taking concrete examples from our everyday life, the author invites us to respond in a Gospel fashion to the upsetting situations we must all confront. Since peace of heart is a pure gift of God, it is something we should seek, pursue and ask him for without cease. *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Fr. Jacques Philippe is here to help us in that pursuit.

***In the School of the Holy Spirit* by Fr. Jacque Philippe**

In the prayer lives of many Christians there is one person of the Trinity that often goes overlooked - The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is no less involved in our lives than the Father and the Son, yet many are unaware of this. Jesus said about the Holy Spirit, "If I go, I will send you another Comforter." But are we aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

In the School of the Holy Spirit, by retreat master Jacques Philippe, will lead you to be more attentive to the movements of the Holy Spirit in your life as you learn to value the third person of the Trinity as the Sanctifier of your soul. Philippe explains the rewards of being attentive to the Holy Spirit, and provides simple and concrete ways to grow in this inner sensitivity.

In his clear and simple style, he illustrates his points with many examples from modern life. The book can be a valuable aid in your own spiritual journey.

Time for God by Fr. Jacque Philippe

Many people today are thirsty for God and feel a desire for a personal prayer life that is deep and ongoing. But they encounter obstacles that prevent them from following the path seriously and with perseverance. *Time for God* was written with these desires and difficulties in mind.

Author Jacques Philippe focuses on mental prayer: prayer that consists of facing God in solitude and silence in order to enter into intimate, loving communion with him. Practicing this kind of prayer regularly is considered by all spiritual masters to be an indispensable path that gives access to genuine Christian life—a path to knowing and loving God that empowers us to respond to his call to holiness addressed to each individual.

Philippe draws on years of experience as a spiritual guide to illuminate the fundamental principles of mental prayer and describes some common mistakes and misconceptions that can lead it astray. With simplicity and clarity, he explains the foundational principles for a healthy prayer life and gives advice for overcoming the various obstacles that arise when one sets off on the path of interior prayer.

Interior Freedom by Fr. Jacque Philippe

It's not always possible to control external events. There are so many things that are outside our control: the past, what others think of us, chronic health issues, other peoples' actions, the weather, unforeseen events. This list goes on and on.

It is possible, though, to gain more control over our interior life.

In his book *Interior Freedom*, Fr. Jacques Phillippe shows us that we possess, each of us, inside of us a space of freedom that no one can take away. Despite the most unfavorable outward circumstances, we can claim our freedom because God is its source and its guarantee. Without this, we will always be in search for something else to fulfill us, and we will never understand true happiness.

Fr. Philippe lays out a simple but important theme in *Interior Freedom*: "We gain possession of our interior freedom in proportion to our growth in faith, hope, and love." He explains that the dynamism between these three theological virtues is the heart of our spiritual life, and he underscores the key role of the virtue of hope in our spiritual growth.

The Way of Trust and Love: A Retreat Guided by St. Thérèse of Lisieux by Fr. Jacque Philippe

St. Thérèse of Lisieux sought a new way to Heaven: "a little way that is quite straight, quite short: a completely new little way." Blessed with personal limitations that might have discouraged another, Thérèse believed God would not have given her a desire for holiness if He did not intend for her to achieve it. She learned to humbly accept herself as she was and trust completely in God's love.

First given as a retreat by renowned author Father Jacques Philippe, *The Way of Trust and Love* navigates excerpts of St. Thérèse's writings phrase by phrase, extracting powerful, resonating insights. To Thérèse, the journey seemed "little" as she traveled it. A hundred and fifteen years after her death, the message of the young saint and Doctor of the Church has traveled around the world inspiring millions. With this newly translated study of her spirituality, many today will rediscover—or find for the first time—the relevance of "the little way," in all seasons of life.

***How to Listen When God Is Speaking: A Guide for Modern-Day Catholics* by Fr. Mitch Pacwa**

How do we listen to God speak to our hearts, minds, and wills—especially above the noise and stress of the modern world? What is the process of discerning God's will? Best-selling author and popular EWTN host Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ tackles these and other questions in this comprehensive book on discernment. He says that first we need to believe in God and his moral laws and make a commitment to please him in all that we do. Then we need to pray so that we can experience the peace that can come only from God.

- Confronts modern-day assumptions that can prevent us from being open to God's will for our lives.
- Emphasizes the many ways we can develop our prayer life to nourish an authentic relationship with the Lord.

***The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen**

With over a million copies sold, this classic work is essential reading for all who ask, "Where has my struggle led me?"

A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* catapulted Henri Nouwen on an unforgettable spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell.

As Nouwen reflects on Rembrandt's painting in light of his own life journey, he evokes a powerful drama of the classic parable in a rich, captivating way that is sure to reverberate in the hearts of readers. Nouwen probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's resentfulness, and the father's compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as God loves, and to be loved as God's beloved, will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and is here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times.

***He Ledeth Me* by Fr. Walter Ciszek**

Captured by a Russian army during World War II and convicted of being a "Vatican spy," Jesuit Father Walter J. Ciszek spent twenty-three agonizing years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps of Siberia. Only through an utter reliance on God's will did he manage to endure the extreme hardship. He tells of the courage he found in prayer—a courage that eased the loneliness, the pain, the frustration, the anguish, the fears, the despair. For, as Ciszek relates, the solace of spiritual contemplation gave him an inner serenity upon which he was able to draw amidst the "arrogance of evil" that surrounded him. Ciszek learns to accept the inhumane work in the infamous Siberian salt mines as a labor pleasing to God. And through that experience, he was able to turn the adverse forces of circumstance into a source of positive value and a means of drawing closer to the compassionate and never-forsaking Divine Spirit.

***I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux* by Fr. Jean C. J. d'Elbée**

This spiritual classic has long been beloved by Catholics for its wondrous distillation of the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux into a reader-friendly set of meditations. It's perfect as a personal retreat when you have only a few moments to spare each day – and for spiritual reading anytime and anywhere.

Fr. Jean C. J. d'Elbée, a French priest deeply imbued with St. Thérèse's spirit, brings you St. Thérèse's teachings on God's love and the confidence in Him that it should inspire in your soul; humility, peace, and fraternal charity; the apostolate; the Cross; and what it means truly to abandon yourself to Divine Providence. *I Believe in Love* has helped countless souls embark on the way to the Father. It will help you focus on Him throughout each day, rest in Him amid your troubles, and live joyfully with Him at every moment!

You'll learn:

- How you can (and must) have confidence in God, not in spite of your sufferings, but because of them!
- The secret that makes sense of the pain and trouble in your life – no matter how great
- One thing you must cherish in your soul, or you'll never learn to love as Jesus loves
- God's love for you personally: are you really aware of its reality in every moment of your life?
- The spiritual goldmine that is at your fingertips now – if you know where to find it

***The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher**

In *Discernment of Spirits* Fr. Gallagher helps us understand St. Ignatius of Loyola's Rules for Discernment and how their insights are invaluable for our spiritual growth today. By integrating the Rules and the experience of contemporary people, Fr. Gallagher shows the precision, clarity, and insight of Ignatius's Rules. This book is for all who desire greater awareness of God's action in their daily spiritual lives, and is valuable reading for retreat directors, spiritual directors, priests, and counselors.

***The Power of Silence* by Robert Cardinal Sarah**

In a time when technology penetrates our lives in so many ways and materialism exerts such a powerful influence over us, Cardinal Robert Sarah presents a bold book about the strength of silence. The modern world generates so much noise, he says, that seeking moments of silence has become both harder and more necessary than ever before.

Silence is the indispensable doorway to the divine, explains the cardinal in this profound conversation with Nicolas Diat. Within the hushed and hallowed walls of the La Grande Chartreux, the famous Carthusian monastery in the French Alps, Cardinal Sarah addresses the following questions: Can those who do not know silence ever attain truth, beauty, or love? Do not wisdom, artistic vision, and devotion spring from silence, where the voice of God is heard in the depths of the human heart?

After the international success of *God or Nothing*, Cardinal Sarah seeks to restore to silence its place of honor and importance. "Silence is more important than any other human work," he says, "for it expresses God. The true revolution comes from silence; it leads us toward God and others so as to place ourselves humbly and generously at their service."

Abandonment to Divine Providence by Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade

"Let go and let God." This popular phrase captures the essence of Father Jean-Pierre de Caussade's 18th century treatise on trust.

Do you doubt? Do you suffer? Are you anxious about the trials of life?

Father de Caussade offers the one sure solution to any spiritual difficulty: abandon yourself entirely to God by embracing the duties of your station in life. With wisdom and gentleness he teaches how to practice complete submission to the will of God in every situation, whether we are beginners or seasoned travelers on the way of perfection. True abandonment, he explains, is a trusting, peaceful, and childlike surrender to the guidance of grace.

My Beloved Is Mine and I Am His by Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

Brideship, writes Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C., is "not a popular word" in the context of the consecrated life—thanks to the saccharine, pseudo-mystical treatment it has often received in the past. Yet this treatment and the adverse reactions to it flow from a lamentable misunderstanding of Divine Revelation. In the Church, as Pope St. John Paul II describes in *Vita consecrata*, vowed women religious are "a special eschatological image of the Heavenly Bride and of the life to come." Identifying the four elements of brideship as presence, focus, service, and surrender, and their roots in Scripture and manifestation in religious life, Mother Mary Francis echoes these profound words: "We are the spouses of Christ. We are covenanted people called to do this for Christ and his Church."

Describing with poignant and heartfelt conviction the beauty of brideship in the covenant of religious profession, *My Beloved Is Mine and I Am His* is a beautiful treatment of the wondrous height, depth, and breadth of God's love for the soul he chooses as his own.

Anima Christi: Soul of Christ by Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

These meditations on the famous prayer of St. Ignatius by a Poor Clare nun and well-regarded spiritual writer will help every reader deepen his prayer life and draw closer to the Person of Christ. Popes, saints, and common folk have made this their daily prayer for centuries. Let the Abbess of cloistered nuns help you reflect deeper on the profound thoughts of this prayer that are needed to shape a devout life in Christ.

Beneath the surface verbal expressions of this familiar prayer lie depths of meaning for which each unfolding petition prepares the next until arrival at the final all-comprehensive plea that God should call us to Himself and admit us into the eternal choir singing His praises. The unending joyous cry of the blessed taught by the ageless cry of the angels: Holy! Holy! Holy! is rehearsed on earth in the haunting reaches of this so simple and so profound prayer: "Anima Christi".

Happy Are You Poor by Fr. Thomas Dubay

To the modern mind, the concept of poverty is often confused with destitution. But destitution emphatically is not the Gospel ideal. A love-filled sharing frugality is the message, and *Happy Are You Poor* explains the meaning of this beatitude lived and taught by Jesus himself. But isn't simplicity in lifestyle meant only for nuns and priests? Are not all of us to enjoy the goodness and beauties of our magnificent creation? Are parents to be frugal with the children they love so much?

The renowned spiritual writer Dubay gives surprising replies to these questions. He explains how material things are like extensions of our persons and thus of our love. If everyone lived this love there would be no destitution.

After presenting the richness of the Gospel message, more beautiful than any other world view, he explains how Gospel frugality is lived in each state of life.

And You Are Christ's: The Charism of Virginity and the Celibate Life by Fr. Thomas Dubay

Father Thomas Dubay, one of the foremost authorities on religious life, discusses one of the most important but not fully appreciated or understood charisms of the consecrated life, the charism of virginity. Although the idea of virginity is unpopular and even despised in modern society, Dubay emphasizes that the importance of evangelical virginity is rooted in its Biblical foundation, both in the Old and New Testaments.

Examining in detail what the call to virginity is and how it is integrated into the whole of consecrated life, Dubay presents his study in such a way as to be of importance to men as well. Noting that a woman, because of her feminine nature and traits, can image and live the Church's wedded relationship to Christ more realistically, Dubay points out that men with the celibate charism are also members of the virgin Church that is wedded to Christ, just as in the Old Testament the People of God was a virgin bride wedded to Yahweh. The common and distinct elements of male and female consecrated love are fully captured in these pages.

Chastity by Erik Varden

At a time when religion is in decline in the Western world and when it often seems that the senses have run riot, Erik Varden shows that chastity, the single minded direction of the senses, is a loveable quality and one that affects and beautifies humankind.

The word 'chastity', at first sight, may seem intimidating, something to be dismissed out of hand. It is, however, something very different to celibacy.

The terms sexuality and wholeness indicate that to be sexual is to exist in a state of incompleteness longing to be restored. Wholeness points to a healing embrace that we desire so greatly. In Biblical language, chastity is a function of simplicity of sight. We are no longer torn apart by our passions and our desires, indeed they may reach their fulfilment. Body and spirit, male and female, order and disorder, passion and death can move from creative tension to a new kind of wholeness.

Varden's text is enriched by a wide range of references to scripture, literature, music, painting and sculpture.

***The Genesis of Gender: A Christian Theory* by Abigail Favale**

The question of gender—who we are as men and women—has never been more pressing, or more misunderstood.

Weaving personal experience with expert knowledge, Dr. Abigail Favale provides an in-depth yet accessible account of the gender paradigm: a framework for understanding reality and identity that has recently risen to prominence. Favale traces the genealogy of gender to its origins in feminism and postmodern thought, describing how gender has come to eclipse sex, and how that shift is reshaping language, law, medicine, sexuality, and our own self-perceptions.

With substance, clarity, and compassion, Favale teases out the hidden assumptions of the gender paradigm and exposes its effects. Yet this book is not merely an exposé—it is also a powerful, moving articulation of a Christian understanding of reality: a holistic paradigm that proclaims the dignity of the body, the sacramental meaning of sexual difference, and the interconnectedness of all creation. *The Genesis of Gender* is a vital, timely resource for anyone seeking to better understand the gender paradigm—and how to live beyond it.

***The Love That Keeps Us Sane: Living the Little Way of St. Thérèse of Lisieux* by Marc Foley, O.C.D.**

This is not a book about using Thérèse's "little way" as a path to holiness. Thérèse's spirituality is often dismissed as cloyingly sweet and sentimental, useless for modern seekers. This book uncovers how Thérèse's sweetness was just a stylistic convention expected in the religious writing of her day. Beneath the form, says the author, is a straightforward spirituality that offers a practical, concrete, and very realistic method for preserving one's sanity in an often-insane world. At the heart of Thérèse's method is learning how to keep one's perspective by seeing all things in light of eternity, seeing all things the way God sees. This enables one to live more authentically and more attentively. The method helps readers to become involved in life without being absorbed by it, to love without becoming enmeshed, and to deal with life's absurdities without losing faith or peace of mind. Five simple everyday choices help foster this perspective and transform ordinary life into moments of true grace. Those already devoted to the Little Flower will love this fresh new look at her spirituality. In addition, the book makes for enlightening and perhaps surprising reading for pastors, clergy and religious, directors of religious ed, retreat directors, chaplains, and family counselors. The principle of viewing life in light of eternity can also provide comfort and relief for parents dealing with children, for those experiencing change or loss, and for people in therapy.

Books about Saints

***Edith Stein: The Life and Legacy of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross* by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda**

In the wake of World War I when neither Jews nor women were widely accepted in academia, Edith Stein rose to prominence as a leading philosopher who thrived in the intellectual community in Germany. She shocked both her Jewish family and her academic friends when she fell in love with Jesus Christ and became a Roman Catholic.

More shocking still, eleven years later, Edith entered the cloistered Carmelite order to follow a life of mystic and contemplative prayer, changing her name to Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Edith Stein's surrender to grace is all the more visible because of the dark night that enveloped the period of history in which she lived and died when millions of men and women, including Edith Stein herself, were systematically murdered by the Nazi regime in the name of diligent ethnic cleansing.

Today, as the meaning of feminism is lost in a world of relativism, Edith Stein provides a model for a true feminist woman who authentically integrates faith, family, and work. Award-winning journalist Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda brings new light to this complex woman, her culture, and the pivotal period of history in which she lived and died.

More than a biography, these pages paint a multifaceted portrait of Edith Stein as seen by scholars, friends, and relatives and by Catholics and Jews alike. You'll gain new insights into the complex aspects of her life and death, as well as the impact of her character and personality on those who knew her. But most of all, you will enter into the interior life of this woman of Jewish descent who transformed her entire life because of her encounter with Jesus Christ, an encounter that led her from the depths of atheism to the heights of sainthood.

***Saint Mary Magdalene: Prophetess of Eucharistic Love* by Sean Davidson**

Adoration is love, and eucharistic adoration is love of Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament. In the Gospels there are few people who understand love for Jesus as well as Mary Magdalene, which is the reason she is a prophetess of eucharistic love.

This work is an extended meditation on the life of Saint Mary Magdalene, known as the "Apostle to the Apostles" because the Risen Christ appeared to her first and then sent her to announce the Resurrection to the apostles. Based on the biblical texts traditionally associated with Mary Magdalene, this book helps readers to learn from her inspiring example and to enter more deeply into adoration of Jesus Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

In telling the story of Mary Magdalene's profound conversion after the Lord had to expel seven demons from her soul, this book shows how she is a shining witness to the transforming power of an encounter with Jesus Christ. Mary Magdalene is the perfect model for those who have experienced the redeeming love of Christ and who seek to deepen their devotion to him and to the Eucharist.

"Saint Mary Magdalene reminds us of the need to recover the primacy of God and the primacy of adoration in the life of the Church and in the liturgical celebration."

Marian Books

***The Reed of God* by Caryl Houselander**

The Reed of God by Caryl Houselander, British Catholic writer and artist, has been cherished by Catholics worldwide since its first publication in 1944. This spiritual classic invites readers to encounter Mary, the Mother of God, not as a distant, untouchable figure but as deeply human—one whose openness to God made divine love visible in the world.

Caryl Houselander portrays Mary as a reed, hollow and open, through which God's song could be played. With this powerful image, Houselander reveals how Mary gave her whole being to God's plan and shows how we, too, can become instruments of divine love.

Years before the Second Vatican Council inspired renewed devotion to Mary, Houselander offered her own profound and approachable vision of the Mother of God—warm, intuitive, and accessible. She counters the stiff, idealized “Madonna of the Christmas card” with a portrait of Mary that is alive, intimate, and profoundly relevant for Christians seeking closeness with Christ. Drawing from centuries of theological tradition yet enriched by her keen understanding of the human condition and the modern hunger for meaning, Houselander gives flesh and spirit to the Church's affirmations about Mary and presents her as a figure designed for contemplation and imitation.

Through essays and poems, divided into four parts, Houselander reflects on the mysteries of Mary's life—her fiat, the finding of Jesus in the Temple, her assumption—and on themes of emptiness, fruitfulness, and the soul's longing for union with God. In Mary's humanity, Houselander finds the model for every believer: to carry Christ into the world.

As Houselander writes, “The one thing that she did and does is the one thing that we all have to do, namely, to bear Christ into the world. To this need, the imitation of Our Lady is the answer; in contemplating her we find intimacy with God, the law which is the lovely yoke of the one irresistible love.”

***33 Days to Morning Glory: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Marian Consecration* by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley**

From Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC, author of the bestselling book *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, comes an extraordinary 33-day journey to Marian consecration with four giants of Marian spirituality: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, and Blessed John Paul II. Fr. Michael masterfully summarizes their teaching, making it easy to grasp and simple enough to put into practice. More specifically, he weaves their thought into a user-friendly, do-it-yourself retreat that will bless even the busiest of people. So, if you've been thinking about entrusting yourself to Mary for the first time or if you're simply looking to deepen and renew your devotion to her, *33 Days to Morning Glory* is the right book to read and the perfect retreat to make.

Books by Saints

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity: The Complete Works, Vol. 1: Revised Edition (Major Spiritual Writings)

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880–1906) is a mystic for our times. She entered the Discalced Carmelite monastery in Dijon, France, at the age of twenty-one and died just five years later. In her short time as a Carmelite nun, she advanced profoundly in the spiritual life. Her spirituality is marked by her attention to the indwelling Trinity and her call to become a “praise of glory” for God. Her writings are imbued with biblical spirituality—especially the epistles of St. Paul—and an apostolic impetus to share the message of finding heaven on earth within the soul’s union with God.

This first of three volumes contains a biographical sketch, a general introduction to her complete works, and her major writings. The introductory material, as well as the critical notes throughout, were composed by her French biographer and editor, Father Conrad De Meester, O.C.D. The major writings included in this volume consist of two sets of retreats, “Heaven in Faith,” written for her younger sister just three months before her death, and “Last Retreat,” her expression of thirst for the love of God. Also included are “The Greatness of Our Vocation,” “Let Yourself Be Loved,” and her famous prayer, “O My God, Trinity Whom I Adore.”

Divine Mercy In My Soul: Diary of Sister M. Faustina Kowalska

The Diary is a dramatic telling of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska's amazing encounter with The Divine Mercy our Lord Jesus Christ. On Mercy Sunday 2006, Pope Benedict XVI said, “The mystery of the merciful love of God was the center of the pontificate of my venerable predecessor [Pope John Paul II] ... evidencing that the devotion to Divine Mercy is not a secondary, but an integral dimension of a Christian's faith and prayer.” The Diary chronicles God's invitation to turn to His mercy as a source of hope for the world. In it, we are reminded to trust in the Divine Mercy of Jesus and seek His forgiveness. And as Christ is merciful, so, too, are we instructed to be merciful to others. The message of Divine Mercy has become an integral part of Catholic faith, including the celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter as Jesus had requested of St. Faustina. The Diary is truly a book that inspires people to turn with trust to Jesus and guides the reader through an intimate journey of prayer and devotion that ultimately leads to God's mercy.

Story of a Soul by St. Therese of Liseux

The *Story of a Soul* conveys St. Thérèse of Liseux's "Little Way" of spiritual childhood - her "elevator" to Heaven, as she called it. This method was approved by Pope Pius XI as a way for all to grow in holiness through unflinching confidence and childlike delight in God's merciful love.

Again and again in this book, St. Thérèse shows us how her "Little Way" of love and trust comes straight from Sacred Scripture.

This book belongs in every Catholic home, for Pope St Pius X stated St. Thérèse of Liseux the "greatest Saint of modern times".

Come Be My Light by St. Mother Teresa

During her lifelong service to the poorest of the poor, Mother Teresa became an icon of compassion to people of all religions; her extraordinary contributions to the care of the sick, the dying, and thousands of others nobody else was prepared to look after has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world. Little is known, however, about her own spiritual heights or her struggles. This collection of her writing and reflections, almost all of which have never been made public before, sheds light on Mother Teresa's interior life in a way that reveals the depth and intensity of her holiness for the first time.

Compiled and presented by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C., who knew Mother Teresa for twenty years and is the postulator for her cause for sainthood and director of the Mother Teresa Center, Mother Teresa brings together letters she wrote to her spiritual advisors over decades. A moving chronicle of her spiritual journey—including moments, indeed years, of utter desolation—these letters reveal the secrets she shared only with her closest confidants. She emerges as a classic mystic whose inner life burned with the fire of charity and whose heart was tested and purified by an intense trial of faith, a true dark night of the soul.

***The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis**

One of the most influential works in Christian literature, the book is an excellent resource for historians, mystics, and those seeking private devotion.

Written by the pious monk Thomas á Kempis, this timeless masterpiece offers wisdom and hope by providing precepts we can use to draw nearer to God and learn how best to grow in holiness through obedience and love. Within these pages, a spiritual journey unfolds intimately in heartfelt prose, providing guidance in the resistance of worldly desires, the significance of mental recollection as a precursor to meditative prayer, and finding gratitude and strength in the soothing embrace of divine consolation and the sacred rite of Eucharistic communion.

- **Timeless Spiritual Wisdom:** Offers profound insights from Thomas á Kempis that transcend denominations and beliefs, guiding readers toward a closer relationship with God.
- **Devotional Classic:** Esteemed as one of the most pivotal works in Christian spirituality, *The Imitation of Christ* has touched and illuminated countless souls across generations.
- **Practical Precepts for Holiness:** Provides actionable guidelines to grow in obedience and love, fostering a life of holiness through faith.
- **Heartfelt Prose:** Delivers intimate spiritual guidance in finding peace from worldly desires and strength through divine consolation.
- **Meditative and Reflective:** Encourages mental recollection and meditative prayer, key practices in deepening one's spiritual life.
- **Rich in Historical and Mystical Significance:** A valuable resource for historians and mystics, offering insight into the depth of Christian devotional practice.
- **Personal Devotion:** Ideal for those seeking a profound spiritual journey through private contemplation and reflection.
- **Eucharistic Focus:** Highlights the sacred rite of Eucharistic communion, emphasizing its importance in deepening one's spiritual connection.

In Christian devotional literature, this religious classic has illuminated countless souls over the ages, transcending the boundaries of denominations, beliefs, and the confines of time.

Group Study with Discussion Questions

Wilderness Within A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation by Sr. Josephine Garrett

Have you ever wondered why Jesus went into the wilderness? Some believe it was to reveal his divinity or to restore humanity's relationship with God. In *Wilderness Within*, Sr. Josephine Garrett, a mental health counselor and popular speaker, reflects on the belief that Jesus went into the wilderness to rescue us—to rescue us! The Lord does not want us to view the wilderness as something that causes worry, anxiety, or fear. “What if, instead,” Sr. Josephine writes, “we looked at how God has been a faithful provider in the wilderness and trusted that He will do the same for us in the wilderness journey ahead? What if we joyfully take His hand and journey into the wilderness, because when Christ enters there, ‘this opposite place of the garden becomes the place of reconciliation and healing’” (Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth)?

In *Wilderness Within*, Sr. Josephine will guide you through the forty days of Lent to attend to the wilderness of your heart as a place to be explored, restored, and sent on mission by Jesus's tender love.

Who Does He Say You Are?: Women Transformed by Christ in the Gospels by Colleen C. Mitchell

Shortly after the death of their brother, Lazarus, Martha offers this confident response to Jesus's gentle challenge, echoing the confession of Peter: “Yes, Lord, I have believed that you are the Christ, the Son of God come into the world” (John 11:26-27). Her response to this question would change the course of her life—of all their lives. And to the extent that we echo her confession, it transforms us as well.

In *Who Does He Say You Are?*, Catholic missionary and speaker Colleen Mitchell captures the confessions of twelve more women from the Gospels, and shows how their stories answer this crucial question of identity: “Who does he say you are?” Holding up Mary as the ultimate example of intimate, transforming union, Mitchell weaves together moving anecdotes of her own search for identity as a Catholic woman along with twelve accounts of women in Scripture that are at once fresh yet familiar. In so doing, Mitchell connects in a compelling and very personal way with the Scriptures, inspiring readers to “take up and read” in order to discover the answer to this all-important question for themselves.