



The A to Z of Catholic Summer Reading!

Would you like to know how to start up the Catholic Summer Reading Program in your area, with your book group, in your parish, in your school, or elsewhere?

There are just a few simple steps :

1. Make your book selections and order the books(s) either with us online at www.aquinasandmore.com or buy them at your local Catholic bookstore*
2. Download a flyer from the www.catholicsummerreading.com website so you can publicize your group if you want
3. Start reading that book already!
4. Download the book discussion guides.
5. Have lively and entertaining discussions about the book – you'll learn something - share it with others.
6. If you are not part of a local book discussion group you can discuss the book online with others at - www.catholicbookdiscussion.com
7. Feel a sense of accomplishment and don't stop there – reading is awfully good for your brain!

** We strongly urge you to support Catholic retailers whenever possible. Yes, it might be a bit cheaper at Amazon but if you buy something there, you support a gigantic entity who doesn't care what the heck it sells and actually sells a lot of really awful anti-Catholic stuff. Now, in good conscience, do you really want your money going there?*



Dear Father,

We are very excited to introduce to you a new and unique project called the Catholic Summer Reading Program.

The program has been developed to not only encourage reading but also to offer Catholics some "lighter fare" during the "off season" when the kids are out of school and many parish study programs have completed or are on hiatus. With the goal of encouraging Catholics to "not leave their Faith behind" when they are on vacation, at the beach, or away at that cabin in the mountains, the books that have been selected for the program are readily available and easy-to read paperbacks (with two hardcover exceptions) all covering an important Catholic theme or two. There is a mix of fiction and non-fiction titles, so there is literally something for everyone.

On the website www.catholicsummerreading.com you will find downloadable book discussion guides, a complete list of titles with a synopsis of each, and easy ordering information. The book discussion guides will be especially helpful to facilitate small group discussions. Individuals can engage in online discussions of the Catholic Summer Reading books at any time on the www.catholicbookdiscussion.com website.

We believe so strongly in this effort that we are encouraging every Catholic store, parish and school to participate and we are offering all the support materials for free to anyone and everyone for easy distribution.

We sincerely hope that you will encourage your parishioners to participate in this program – especially those who otherwise avoid so-called denser theological works or even Bible study programs for fear that the content would be above their heads.

If Catholics read more, we are convinced they will be more engaged in the subject matter - which in this case is the Catholic Faith.



The ten featured summer reading titles for 2009 are:

"Fulfillment of All Desire," by Ralph Martin, from Emmaus Road Press, paperback \$17.95. Drawing upon the teaching of seven acknowledged "Spiritual Doctors" of the Church, this book presents an in-depth study of the journey to God and provides encouragement and direction for the pilgrim who desires to know, love, and serve our Lord. Whether the reader is beginning the spiritual journey or has been traveling the road for many years, he will find a treasure of wisdom in *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. It is destined to be a modern classic on the spiritual life.

"The Angels & Their Mission," by Jean Cardinal Danielou, from Sophia Institute Press, paperback \$13.95. From St. Augustine to John Henry Newman, the greatest among the saints and men of God have lived on familiar terms with the angels; and the Church has always accorded them a very large place in her theology. From the works of these early Fathers of the Church, the late French Cardinal Jean Daniélou has drawn forth threads of knowledge and wisdom which he has here woven into a lucid and bright tapestry that shows us who the ministering angels really are, and how—in every instant and in every way—they are working for your salvation and mine.

"The Confessions," by Saint Augustine, from Image Books, paperback \$10.95. By common consent the work known as the Confessions of St. Augustine has a special place among the world's great books. Autobiographical in character, it is not an attempt to tell the story of all the years of the writer's life, least of all of the outward events of those years. But no writer ever went deeper into his own character and deeds, passed keener judgments upon himself, or revealed himself more fully and more humbly to others...His book is not only a most penetrating psychological study and a unique document for understanding the spiritual and ascetical life, but it is also a storehouse of thought for the philosopher and the theologian, and for others as well.

"End of the Present World," by Fr. Charles Arminjon, from Sophia Institute Press, paperback \$17.95. In the late 19th century, Father Charles Arminjon, a priest from the mountains of southeastern France, assembled his flock in the town cathedral to preach a series of conferences to help them turn their thoughts away from this life's mean material affairs—and toward the next life's glorious spiritual reward. His wise and uncompromising words deepened in them the spirit of recollection that all Christians must have: the abiding

conviction that heavenly aims, not temporal enthusiasms, must guide everything we think, say, and do. When his conferences were later published in a book, many others were able to reap the same benefit—including fourteen-year-old Thérèse Martin, then on the cusp of entering the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. Reading it, she says, "plunged my soul into a happiness not of this earth."

"Junia," by Fr. Michael Giesler, from Scepter Publishing, paperback \$8.95. As the beautiful daughter of a Roman senator, Junia enjoyed the best that life had to offer in first century Rome. She was grateful and anxious to please her family, a dutiful and obedient young woman of privilege. That is, until a chance friendship and its abrupt end sparks an interest in a new religion that will lead to a destiny she never imagined. Junia is a fictional exploration of life at the very beginning of Christianity from a very personal point of view. It shows how the attractions of the new religion were accompanied by social struggle, family division, and the risk of a disgraceful death to those courageous enough to embrace it.

"King Lear," by William Shakespeare, from Ignatius Press, paperback \$12.95. One of the most popular of Shakespeare's plays, King Lear is also one of the most thought-provoking. The play turns on the practical ramifications of the words of Christ that we should render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's. When confronted with the demand that she should render unto Caesar that which is God's, Cordelia chooses to "love and be silent". As the play unfolds each of the principal characters learns wisdom through suffering. This edition includes new critical essays by some of the leading lights in contemporary literary scholarship.

"Quo Vadis?" by Henryk Sienkiewicz, from Hippocrene Books, paperback \$19.95. Quo Vadis, the record-breaking international bestseller for which Henryk Sienkiewicz won the fifth Nobel Prize for Literature, is as compelling today as the moment it was written. An epic saga of love, courage, and devotion in the last days of the Roman Empire, it portrays the corruption and debauchery of Nero's rule alongside the agony and glory of early Christianity. Written over a century ago and translated into over 40 languages, Quo Vadis has been the greatest best-selling novel in the history of literature.

"Sienkiewicz wrote Quo Vadis for the entire world and the world took it to its heart," commented James Michener. Set at a turning point in history (A.D. 54-68), as Christianity replaces the era of corruption and gluttony that marked Nero's Rome, Quo Vadis brims with life.

"Postcard from the Volcano," by Lucy Beckett, from Ignatius Press, paperback \$19.95. Beginning in 1914 and ending on the eve of World War II, this epic story follows the coming of age and early manhood of the Prussian aristocrat, Max von Hofmannswaldau. From the idyllic surroundings of his ancestral home to the streets of cosmopolitan Breslau menaced by the Nazi SS, Hofmannswaldau uncovers the truth about his own identity and confronts the modern ideologies that threaten the annihilation of millions of people. A Postcard from the Volcano opens with the outbreak of World War I and the Prussian pride and patriotism that blind the noble von Hofmannswaldau family to the destruction that lies ahead for their country. The well-researched narrative follows the young count as he leaves home to finish his education and ends up a stranger in the land of his birth.

"Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," by Dame Muriel Spark, from Harper Collins Publishers, paperback \$12.99. At the staid Marcia Blaine School for Girls, in Edinburgh, Scotland, teacher extraordinaire Miss Jean Brodie is unmistakably, and outspokenly, in her prime. She is passionate in the application of her unorthodox teaching methods, in her attraction to the married art master, Teddy Lloyd, in her affair with the bachelor music master, Gordon Lowther, and--most important--in her dedication to "her girls," the students she selects to be her creme de la creme. Fanatically devoted, each member of the Brodie set--Eunice, Jenny, Mary, Monica, Rose, and Sandy--is "famous for something," and Miss Brodie strives to bring out the best in each one. Determined to instill in them independence, passion, and ambition, Miss Brodie advises her girls, "Safety does not come first. Goodness, Truth, and Beauty come first. Follow me." And they do. But one of them will betray her.

"Song at the Scaffold," by Gertrude von Le Fort, from Neumann Press, paperback \$14.95. Gertrud von Len Fort wrote *The Song at the Scaffold* in 1931 five years after converting to the Catholic Faith and at that time was considered Germany's most influential Catholic poet and novelist. *The Song at the Scaffold* is a novelette set in the time of the French Revolution, an epoch that vividly demonstrated man's capacity for both heroism and brutality. It is a very intense story dealing primarily with the Carmelite Convent at Compiègne but also encompassing the Paris mob - the Reign of Terror - Women Revolutionists, etc. - climaxing in the martyrdom of sixteen Carmelite nuns. Excellent reading for both students and adults.

Father, thank you so much for your time and your consideration of Catholic Summer Reading.

If you have any questions, need further information, or have comments, we would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,



Suggested Bulletin Announcement (for parishes) or Note to Give Customers (for retailers)

"Join the Catholic Summer Reading Program today!

Looking for some "lighter fare" for your summer reading? Want something fun to read that also reflects the timeless values of our Catholic faith? Visit the website www.catholicsummerreading.com and find out about how you can participate, at your own pace and in your own area of interest.

There is something for everyone! Start a reading group in your parish or school, even among friends at work.

You can also participate in online discussions of the books at www.catholicbookdiscussion.com.

There a huge selection of 64 authentically Catholic titles to choose from – all but two are relatively inexpensive paperbacks that you can take to the beach, to that cabin in the woods, or just to that comfy hammock in the backyard.

"Recapture the enjoyment of summer reading, from a truly Catholic perspective."

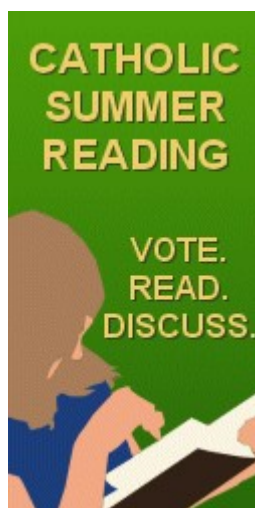


To our customers -

Join in the Catholic reading event of the summer!

Visit www.catholicsummerreading.com to see how you, your parish or your Catholic organization can be part of this very exciting event. Check out the downloadable reading lists and event flyers!

Host a book discussion of your own, or join in the discussions online at www.catholicbookdiscussion.com



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