



## **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](http://www.aquinasandmore.com) or buy them at your local Catholic bookstore\***
- 2. Download a flyer from the [www.catholicsummerreading.com](http://www.catholicsummerreading.com) website so you can publicize your group if you want**
- 3. Start reading that book already!**
- 4. Download selected 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](http://www.catholicbookdiscussion.com)**
- 7. Feel a sense of accomplishment and don't stop there – reading is really very 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 our ongoing and unique project called the Catholic Summer Reading Program – now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year.**

**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](http://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](http://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 featured summer reading titles for 2010 are:**

***“The Gargoyle Code” by Fr. Dwight Longenecker, from Saint Benedict Press, paperback \$11.95. Not since The Screwtape Letters has there been such a devastatingly diabolical collection of correspondence. Master Tempter Slubgrip writes daily to trainee devil Dogwart, advising him on the temptation of a confused young Catholic, while he struggles to control his own patient, an older Catholic man who is facing a serious illness. The Gargoyle Code makes for unput-downable reading at any time, but it is especially edifying as a book to be read during the Lenten season.***

***“Introduction to the Devout Life” by Saint Francis de Sales, from Vintage Books, paperback \$13.95. This remarkable book has remained a uniquely accessible and relevant treasure of devotion for nearly 400 years. As Bishop of Geneva in the first quarter of the 17th century, Francis de Sales saw to the spiritual needs of everyone from the poorest peasants to court ladies. The desire to be closer to God that he found in people from all levels of society led him to compile these instructions on how to live in Christ. Francis’s compassionate Introduction leads the reader through practical ways of attaining a devout life without renouncing the world and offers prayers and meditations to strengthen devotion in the face of temptation and hardship.***

***“Doers of the Word” by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, from Our Sunday Visitor, paperback \$9.95. Whether you are surrounded by the peaceful tranquility of an empty chapel or the anxiety driven mad dash of the New York City rush hour, God is always there. He’s there in the stillness. He’s there in the chaos. Our call is to seek Him, find Him, and serve Him. As Archbishop of New York, Timothy Dolan knows only too well the many faces of Christ. Known for his devotion, dedication, and sense of humor, Dolan uses Doers of the Word to share a unique combination of simplicity, practicality, and guidance to give our faith a daily dose of meaning and application. No matter our agenda for the day or the week, Dolan masterfully combines insightful commentary and personal stories with snippets of Church history, lives of the saints, and Catholic teaching to inspire holiness through the daily details of ordinary life.***

***“Wisdom for Everyday Life: From the Book of Revelation” by Fr. Richard Veras, from Servant Publications, paperback \$13.99. The book of Revelation—you might find it fascinating, you might find it incomprehensible, but either way you probably don’t think it has much to say about everyday***

**Christian life. A beast with seven heads, locusts with human faces, Death on a pale horse—what could any of this possibly have to do with whether or not you gossip about your colleagues or cheat on your taxes? Everything, according to Father Richard Veras. The symbolic language of Revelation underscores such foundational truths as God's inescapable presence—"there is no time, place or situation in which he is not"—to the fact that "the army of the beast is not made up of aliens; it is made up of hardened human hearts." Father Veras's lively exploration of this apocalyptic book will help you understand the ongoing spiritual battle for humanity and the choices you need to make now in order to stand victorious with Jesus at the end of time.**

**"John Henry Newman: His Inner Life" by Fr. Zeno, from Ignatius Press, paperback \$16.95. This book is a culmination of Father Zeno's life work. With the cooperation of the Oratorian Fathers, he was given full access to all of Newman's letters, diaries, and complete published and unpublished sermons. From all this he has drawn together the interior struggles Newman faced from childhood until his death. Zeno allows Newman to speak through his work and writings, an exceedingly rich source. This is a landmark work considered one of the best spiritual biographies of John Henry Newman ever written. This book was first published in Dutch and met with immediate and extensive acclaim. It covers Newman's young life as an Anglican, the doubts he faced in light of his historical studies, his conversion to Catholicism, the trials he faced as a result of his conversion, and his remarkable growth in holiness and the interior life.**

**"No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy" by Fr. Donald Calloway, from Marian Press, paperback \$19.95. Many who know of Fr. Donald Calloway know him because of his conversion story. He has spoken of it at conferences, on television, radio, online, and wherever he can spread the message. This book finally captures in print how Divine Mercy, through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, touched his life. In his own words, this book recounts Fr. Donald's personal story of conversion after reading a book about Our Lady. Though today he is a devout Catholic Marian priest, Fr. Donald's early years were no indication of what was to come. Before his conversion to Catholicism, he was a high school dropout who had been kicked out of a foreign country, institutionalized twice and thrown in jail multiple times. Discovering a book on Our Lady led to his conversion and ardent love of Mary and the Church.**

**"The Mystery of Joseph" by Fr. Marie-Dominique Philippe, O.P., from Ignatius Press, paperback \$14.95. Although the greatest of saints, after Mary, St. Joseph is perhaps the least well understood. What Scripture teaches is compelling, but mysterious: he moves quietly and thoughtfully through its pages, almost unobserved in his humility and silence. And yet Pope Paul VI has said: "If we look carefully into this life that was apparently so unremarkable, we shall find that it was greater and more adventurous, more full of exciting events, than we are accustomed to assume in our hasty perusal of the Gospel." In this illuminating book, Fr. Philippe leads you deep into the beautiful mystery of St. Joseph - revealing the greatness of the apparently unremarkable man who was the guardian of Jesus and Mary, and who is now the Guardian of the Church, "overflowing with immeasurable wisdom and power." Weaving together the many different strands of the Church's ever-deepening understanding of St. Joseph, along with his own profound insights, here is a warm and moving portrait of the humble, heroic carpenter of Bethlehem - a**

**great man who became, by God's grace, a great saint. After reading this book, you will never see St. Joseph (and perhaps yourself) in quite the same way again.**

**"Fatherless" by Brian J. Gail, from Catholic Word, paperback \$14.95. Called a book of the century, powerful, gripping, deeply moving, hauntingly beautiful, masterfully done, a must read and a freight train page turner! An intensely human tour of the great spiritual battles in the US Catholic church during the late 20th century. Brian Gail takes us out into the "trenches" and shows what life was like for Catholics good and bad during this critical time. This book is a great opportunity for Catholics to take hold of who they really are. Meticulously researched, brilliantly crafted, Fatherless takes the reader on an unforgettable journey inside Fortune 500 boardrooms and Madison Avenue screening rooms, behind one-way mirrors in America's heartland and two-way screens in church confessionals, to the very peak of Ireland's highest mountain and inside the papal dining room of John Paul II in Rome. It is the searing journey to the center of conscience, however, that marks Fatherless as the signature Catholic novel of its generation. In its pages we meet flesh and blood characters - noble and flawed, driven and seeking; each struggling to achieve the American Dream ... discovering instead a uniquely American nightmare. How each confronts the reality of ethical and moral dilemmas - while struggling to balance faith, family, and career - goes to the very heart of the Catholic experience in America in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This is a tale you will never forget.**

**"Cloud of Witnesses: Dead People I Knew When They Were Alive" by Fr. George Rutler, from Scepter Publishers, paperback \$9.95. In Cloud of Witnesses, Fr. George Rutler offers a personal account of the many remarkable people he has encountered throughout his life. From Robert Frost, to Mother Teresa to the many lesser known people, Fr. Rutler lets you in on the many graces that he has received through his own friendships. Told with personal vignettes in his signature style, Fr. Rutler offers not only an inside glimpse into his remarkable circle of friends, but also a deeper understanding and appreciation for the richness of the priestly ministry.**

**"Exiles: A Novel" by Ron Hansen, from Macmillan Publishing, paperback \$14.00. In December 1875 the steamship Deutschland left Bremen, Germany, bound for America. On board were five nuns, exiled by a ban on religious orders, bound to begin their lives anew in Missouri. Their journey would end when the Deutschland ran aground at the mouth of the Thames and all five drowned. Ron Hansen tells their harrowing story, but also that of the poet and seminarian Gerard Manley Hopkins, and how the shipwreck moved him to write a grand poem, The Wreck of the Deutschland, a revelatory work read throughout the world today. Combining a thrilling tragedy at sea, with the seeming shipwreck of Hopkins's own life, Hansen brilliantly, if soberly, weaves two interrelated story lines into a riveting novel.**

**"Old Errors, New Labels" by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, from St. Paul's/Alba House Publishers, paperback \$14.95. "This book," the author wrote in 1931, "is an attempt to judge contemporary ideals in the field of morals, religion, science, evolution, sociology, psychology and humanism in the light of that philosophical daylight called 'common sense.' If at times it criticizes certain views on the grounds of their unreasonableness, it does so to prepare for a view which seems more reasonable. If at other times it shows that what is wrong with a certain philosophical outlook is that it emphasizes a part against**

*the whole, it does so in order to suggest a view that is more catholic in the sense of being the whole truth." The extraordinary thing for the reader here at the beginning of the twenty-first century is that many of the "old errors" of seventy-five years ago are still cropping up with "new labels" today. There is no sympathy shown in these pages for those who believe that everything that is modern is best, nor with those who believe that everything that is modern is bad. The book does attempt to show, however, that what is often called "modern" is only a new label for an old error, and that what is called "behind the times" is really "beyond time" and outside of fashions because it is an expression of the truth which is eternal.*

*"The Promise: God's Purpose and Plane for When Life Hurts" by Fr. Jonathan Morris, from HarperCollins Publishers, paperback \$14.99. Fr. Morris draws from his religious tradition as well as his experiences in the world of media to present understandable and genuine advice for those who suffer—in other words, everyone. The promise of the title is God's promise to bring something better out of suffering. For some, this may oversimplify the matter, but for others it will provide a glimmer of hope. One of the most useful chapters addresses the various images of God that people hold—all of which are incomplete, and some of which can be seen as spiritually harmful. The author describes these images accurately, ties them in with how people who maintain those images view suffering and uses real-life examples he has encountered in his ministry. The theodicy question (why does a loving God allow suffering?) will always present a quandary to believers of all stripes. Morris is successful in making the claim that it is possible to sustain one's faith in the midst of what is sometimes a cruel world.*

**Father, thank you so much for your time and your consideration of Catholic Summer Reading. We hope you will consider offering the program in your parish this summer. Its a great antidote to the "summer doldrums."**

**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 lively and inspiring 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](http://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](http://www.catholicbookdiscussion.com) and read reviews online at [www.tiberriver.com](http://www.tiberriver.com) There a huge selection of Catholic titles to choose from – all 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."*



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***Join in the Catholic reading event of the summer!***

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**Host a book discussion of your own, or join in the discussions online at [www.catholicbookdiscussion.com](http://www.catholicbookdiscussion.com)**



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