

## ***National Leader in Catholic Retailing Announces the 2009 Catholic Summer Reading Program.***

For decades, secular bookstores throughout the country have been enormously successful at developing summer reading programs which feature popular and affordable paperbacks that can be easily carried and casually read while on vacation or simply enjoying some “downtime” during the summer months.

Leading Catholic online retailer Aquinas and More Catholic Goods [www.aquinasandmore.com](http://www.aquinasandmore.com) has announced selections for its third sponsorship year of the now popular and distinctly Catholic summer reading program.

The program, which officially launched June 1, once again urges Catholics to “not leave the Faith behind” when heading off to the beach, to Disneyworld, or to that proverbial cabin in the woods. The selection of over 70 paperback books includes both fiction and non-fiction works and all have distinctly Catholic themes.

“Many Catholics are not aware that there are extraordinary works of fiction (novels) on Catholic themes which are edifying, informative, engaging and inspiring. At the same time, fiction is not everyone's “cup of tea” so the summer reading program offers a solid selection of books in the subject areas of education, history, comparative religion, military interest, family issues, popular culture and more.” says Ian Rutherford, President of Aquinas and More.

Many of the featured titles also come with discussion guides to facilitate book clubs or book discussion groups that form around the books being offered. Online book discussions will also take place at [www.catholicbookdiscussion.com](http://www.catholicbookdiscussion.com). Catholic bookstores in communities across the country may also be sponsoring local book groups.

“Parishes might want to consider forming summer book discussion groups centered around the summer reading titles to offer parishioners some “lighter fare” in the off-season summer months. Many Catholics will find the program more accessible than some other alternatives which can be more time and commitment intensive.” says Mike Davis, Product Manager at Aquinas and More.

At the website [www.catholicsummerreading.com](http://www.catholicsummerreading.com) readers were encouraged to vote for the “top three official Catholic books of summer.” The top selections were chosen by voters through the month of June – the winners are: *The Angels and Their Mission*, *The Confessions*, and *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. Downloadable book discussion guides for the many of the selections will be available.

Regularly updated, the summer reading site will feature more information on the summer reading program throughout the summer months. A guided summer reading program for young readers will also be featured along with a coloring and prize sheet for the very youngest readers.

Ten featured titles were selected for the Catholic Summer Reading Program when it launched on June 1. From this list, the Top Three titles were chosen.

### ***The Angels & Their Mission***

by Jean Cardinal Danielou, \$13.95 paperback. This short book is an excellent introduction to the history and theology of the angels. Describes their mission in the life of the Church and in the life of every soul.

### ***Confessions of Saint Augustine***

by St. Augustine of Hippo, \$10.95 paperback. The greatest spiritual autobiography of all time, from one of the Fathers of the Early Church who has profoundly affected the life of the Church and even our understanding of the Catholic faith to this very day.

### ***The End of the Present World***

by Fr. Charles Arminjon, \$17.95 paperback. A series of powerful talks, collected into a single volume, by St. Therese of Lisieux's parish priest. It was during the time that Fr. Arminjon was given these "retreats" that Therese asked her father for permission to enter the convent.

### ***The Fulfillment of All Desire***

by Ralph Martin, \$17.95 paperback. A modern spiritual classic. A guidebook for the soul, based on the wisdom of the saints, for the Christian journey.

### ***Junia***

By Fr. Michael Giesler, \$8.95 paperback. An intriguing novel of early Christian life, during the Roman persecution. Both gritty and informative – a window into the Age of Martyrs.

### ***King Lear***

By William Shakespeare, \$12.95 paperback. This tragic drama, one of the Bard's greatest achievements, is noted for its probing observation on the nature of human suffering and kinship. Timeless in its moral musings.

### ***Postcard from the Volcano***

by Lucy Beckett, \$19.95 paperback. Fascinating and engaging novel of the postwar period (1914-1939) in Germany. An intelligent and sensitive portrayal of a nation on the verge of entering a time of darkness and terror.

### ***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie***

by Muriel Spark, \$12.99 paperback. Novel set in a Scottish girl's boarding school which probes questions of loyalty, the student-teacher relationship, and betrayal. A gem from the British literary giant, Muriel Spark, who said all her work was infused with her Catholic faith.

## ***Quo Vadis?***

By Henryk Sienkiewicz, \$19.95 paperback. Internationally acclaimed, best-selling novel of the early Christian era. The author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1905. Set in Rome, during the age of Nero, the novel skillfully portrays the sacrifices the early Christians made for the love of Christ – contrasted with the cruelty and excess of the corrupt Roman Empire.

## ***The Song at the Scaffold***

by Gertrude von Le Fort, \$14.95 paperback. 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.

