

# Some Books Useful for Spiritual Reading

*“WHEN YOU COME, BRING THE CLOAK THAT I LEFT WITH  
CARPAS AT TROAS, ALSO THE BOOKS, AND ABOVE ALL THE  
PARCHMENTS” (2TIM 4:13)*

**FOLLOWING IS A SELECTION OF BOOKS THAT CAN BE USEFUL TO THOSE WHO WISH TO  
NOURISH THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE ON THE TREASURE OF THE CHURCH’S TRADITION.**

**ALONG WITH CLASSICAL WORKS BY THE GREAT MASTERS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE—  
CHURCH FATHERS, DOCTORS, AND SAINTS—WE INCLUDE A SHORT LIST OF  
CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS WHO ADVOCATE AN IDEAL OF HOLINESS AND APOSTOLATE  
FOR ORDINARY CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD. ALSO, WE INCLUDE A  
SHORT LIST OF WORKS FROM DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF THEOLOGY THAT ARE READABLE  
BY MOST PEOPLE.**

**THERE ARE MANY OTHER EXCELLENT WORKS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE, SUCH AS THOSE  
OF THE SAINTS AND SO MANY OTHER AUTHORS WHO HAVE GUIDED SOULS ALONG THE  
PATH TO HOLINESS. OUR SELECTION IS DELIBERATELY LIMITED IN THE WORKS IN  
CONTAINS, YET WE ARE OPEN TO NEW TITLES THAT WE WILL ADD AS TIME AND  
EXPERIENCE ALLOWS.**

FERNANDO JADRAQUE SÁNCHEZ

JAVIER LÓPEZ DÍAZ

**APRIL 7, 2010  
© 2009 ISSRA**

<b>I. Church Fathers and Early Christian Writers.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. Classical Works of Spirituality .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>III. Books by Contemporary Authors .....</b>	<b>13</b>
a) Recent Roman Pontiffs.....	13
b) Various Authors.....	15
c) On St. Josemaría and Opus Dei.....	34
<b>IV. Booklets and Short Works.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>V. Selected Works of Theology .....</b>	<b>43</b>
1. Sacred Scripture .....	43
2. Patrology .....	44
3. Introduction to Theology.....	44
4. Fundamental Theology.....	45
5. Dogmatic Theology .....	45
a) On God, One and Three.....	45
b) Creation.....	45
c) Christology.....	46
d) Christian Anthropology.....	46
e) Ecclesiology.....	46
f) Mariology.....	47
g) Eschatology.....	47
h) Ecumenism.....	47
6. Moral Theology.....	48
a) Manuals.....	48
b) Fundamental Moral Theology .....	48
c) Special Moral Theology.....	48
7. Sacramental and Liturgical Theology.....	49
a) General, Baptism, and Confirmation .....	49
b) Eucharist.....	49
c) Penance and Anointing of the Sick.....	49
d) Matrimony.....	49
e) Liturgy.....	49
8. Spiritual Theology .....	49
9. Church History .....	50
<b>VI. Titles Recommended by Readers in the United States.....</b>	<b>51</b>

## **I. Church Fathers and Early Christian Writers**

- St. AUGUSTINE      *Confessions* (Image, Oxford University Press, 1998)  
Autobiography narrating his conversion. Very useful for spiritual reading.
- St. AUGUSTINE      *About the Blessed Trinity [De Trinitate]* (Catholic University of America Press, 2003)  
Uses analogies with creation, especially the powers of the soul, to try to grasp more deeply the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. Requires good theological formation.
- St. AUGUSTINE      *St. Augustine's Expositions on the Book of Psalms [Enarrationes in Psalmos]* (Kessinger Publishing, 2004)  
Homilies on each of the Psalms. Requires good theological formation.
- St. AUGUSTINE      *Homilies on the First Letter of John*  
Commentary on St. John's first letter that seeks to foster charity and a thirst for God. Deep but easy to read
- St. AUGUSTINE      *Tractates on the Gospel of John* (Catholic University of America Press)  
A detailed commentary on St. John's Gospel. Deep but accessible, with many specific examples. Focuses particularly on the Blessed Trinity.
- St. AUGUSTINE      *Sermons to the People: Advent, Christmas, New Year's, Epiphany* (Image, 2002)  
Homilies on a wide variety of topics. Requires good theological formation.
- St. AMBROSE      *Christian Initiation [De Mysteriis]* in *Select Works and Letters* (Hendrickson, 1994)  
Catechetical instruction for recent converts, explaining the Church's teaching on Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, with abundant quotes from Sacred Scripture.
- St. AMBROSE      *About Penance [De Paenitentia]* in *Select Works and Letters* (Hendrickson, 1994)  
Stresses God's mercy and the power of the Church to forgive sins, rejecting rigorism.
- St. AMBROSE      *Given to Love [De Virginitate and De Virginitate]* in *Selected Works and Letters* (Hendrickson, 1994)  
Two separate works on the value of embracing virginity out of love for God, the means to live it well, difficulties, etc. Written with a positive and encouraging tone. More suited for people with good theological formation.
- St. ANDREW OF CRETE      *Marian Homilies* Eight feastday homilies on our Lady's life.
- ANONIMOUS      *Acts of the Martyrs [Acta Martyrum and Passiones et Martyria]*  
Oral processes of the martyrs (*Acta Martyrum*) and first-hand accounts of witnesses (*Passiones et Martyria*). Moving examples of complete self-surrender to God, even to the point of laying down one's life. Modern language editions usually have both parts under one title.
- ANONIMOUS      *A Letter to Diognetus [Epistula ad Diognetum]* in *Early Christian Writings* (Penguin Classics, 1968) Describes the life of Christians who strive for holiness in the midst of the world, contrasting it with the life of pagans. Christians are called the "soul of society."
- St. ATHANASIUS      *The Incarnation of the Word [Oratio de Incarnatione Verbi]* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press; new edition, 1975)

- Reflections on the mystery of the redemptive Incarnation. While confronting specifically the Arian heresy, it also considers objections raised by the Jews and pagans.
- St. BASIL                      *On the Holy Spirit [De Spiritu Sancto]* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press; New edition, 1980)  
 A short work on the consubstantiality of the divine Persons. Its main focus is texts from Sacred Scripture that show the divinity of the Holy Spirit, confronting Sabellianism and Arianism. Requires good theological formation.
- St. CYPRIAN                      *The Advantage of Patience [De Bono Patientiae]*  
 This brief treatise describes the importance and characteristics of the Christian virtue of patience, with Christ and the saints as the model. Fosters supernatural outlook and a spirit of penance.
- St. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA                      *Easter Homilies [Homiliae Paschales]*  
 Shows the importance of fasting and abstinence, vigilance and prayer, almsgiving and works of mercy. While primarily practical in its focus, it also discusses the Christological controversies of the time.
- St. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM                      *Catechetical Lectures [Catecheses]* (Catholic University of America Press, 1969); also found in *St. Cyril of Jerusalem's Lectures on the Christian Sacraments: The Procatechesis and the Five Mystagogical Catecheses* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press; New edition, 1986)  
 These 24 Lenten addresses are divided into two groups. The first contains instruction for catechumens to be baptized at Easter. The second group is addressed to the recently baptized, and focuses on Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist and the Mass.
- St. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA                      *The Teacher [Paedagogus] in The Writings of Clement of Alexandria, Vol. 1* (Adamant Media Corporation, 2001)  
 St. Clement writes to recently baptized Christians, portraying Christ as the divine Teacher who guides and instructs his spiritual children in the duties of their new spiritual life. Offers Christian guidelines for ordinary daily living, in matters of eating, drinking, dressing, social relations, etc.
- St. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA                      *Who is the Rich Man Who is Saved? [Quis Dives Salvetur]*  
 Homily on *Mk* 10:17-31 that explains how our Lord's words, "Go and sell all you have and give it to the poor," do not mean that the possession of material goods makes reaching heaven impossible, but that what is required is detachment.
- St. CLEMENT OF ROME                      *Letter to the Corinthians [Epistula ad Corinthios]* in *Early Christian Writings* (Penguin Classics, 1968)  
 The first part reproaches those who are sowing discord and envy among Christians in Corinth at the end of the first century. The letter exhorts them to embrace penance, piety and humility, and reflects on God's goodness and omnipotence. An important document for explaining the apostolic succession and the primacy of the Church of Rome. The second part deals with the hierarchy of the Church.
- DIDIMUS THE BLIND (OF ALEXANDRIA)                      *Treatise on the Holy Spirit [De Spiritu Sancto]*  
 Uses Scripture to prove the divinity of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity and his consubstantiality with the Father and the Son, confronting the pneumatomachian heresy. Requires good theological formation.
- St. GERMAN OF CONSTANTINOPLE                      *Marian Homilies and Prayers*  
 Focuses primarily on events in our Lady's life, including the Annunciation and Dormition. Besides the homilies, it includes some letters about sacred images.

- St. GREGORY OF NYSSA *The Lord's Prayer [De Oratione Dominica]* in *St. Gregory of Nyssa: The Lord's Prayer, The Beatitudes* (Paulist Press, 1998)  
 These five homilies on the Our Father focus on the need to pray, on how Christians have neglected prayer, and on the petitions in the Our Father.
- St. GREGORY OF NYSSA *The Life of Moses [De Vita Moysis]* (HarperOne, 2006)  
 Summarizes the life of Moses as described in Exodus and Numbers, and then interprets Moses' life allegorically, applying it to the soul's journey towards God. Requires good theological formation.
- St. GREGORY OF NYSSA *The Great Catechesis [Oratio Catechetica Magna]* Addressed to teachers of Christian doctrine (bishops, priests, catechists, etc.). Presents the principal truths of the faith and defends them against pagans, Jews, and heretics, making use of both Scriptural and philosophical arguments. Part one deals with the Trinity, the consubstantiality of the Father and the Son and the divinity of the Holy Spirit. Part two deals with man's creation, original sin, and the restoration of all things in Christ through the Incarnation and Redemption. Part three covers the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.
- St. GREGORY THE GREAT *Forty Gospel Homilies [Homiliae in Evangelia]* (Cistercian Publications, 1990) 40 homilies addressed to Christians in Rome. Starting from the the literal meaning of the sacred text, it draws out the spiritual meaning, with practical guidelines for Christian life.
- St. GREGORY THE GREAT *On the Book of Job [Moralia in Job]*  
 A lengthy commentary on the book of Job. Provides an historical and allegorical exegesis, with an abundance of practical exhortations of an ascetical nature.
- St. GREGORY THE GREAT *St. Gregory the Great, Pastoral Care [Regulae Pastoralis Liber]* (Paulist Press, 1978)  
 Stresses the importance of doctrinal formation for Christian life, with many practical suggestions for spiritual directors.
- St. GREGORY NAZIANZUS *Prayers: The Five Theological Discourses [Orationes]*  
 The first discourse is an introduction to the requirements for theology; the second is on God's existence, nature and attributes; the third considers the unity of nature of the three Divine Persons, especially the divinity of the Logos and his equality with the Father; the fourth responds to the Arians' objections to Christ's divinity, and explains the correct meaning of the Scripture texts used by the Arians; the fifth clarifies the Holy Spirit's divinity, responding to the Macedonians.
- St. HILARY OF POITIERS *About the Blessed Trinity [De Trinitate]* (Catholic University of America Press, 2002)  
 An extensive treatment of the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. Focuses mainly on refuting the errors of Arianism. Requires solid theological formation.
- St. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH *Letters [Epistulae]* in *Early Christian Writings* (Penguin Classics, 1968)  
 Seven letters written by St. Ignatius to the main Churches of his time as he was being brought to Rome in chains to be martyred, at the beginning of the second century. The letters are full of zeal and good doctrine.
- ST IRAENEUS OF LYON *On the Apostolic Preaching [Demonstratio Praedicationis Evangelicae]* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997)  
 This catechetical treatise covers the Blessed Trinity, man's creation and fall, the Incarnation and the Redemption. Argues for the truth of Christian revelation by showing how Jesus, the long awaited Messiah and son of David, fulfilled the Old

Testament prophecies. It exhorts Christians to live in accord with their faith, and warns them against Gnosticism. Requires solid theological formation.

St. JEROME            *Our Lady's Perpetual Virginity [De Perpetua Virginitate B. Mariae, adversus Helvidium]* in *Saint Jerome, dogmatic and polemical works* (Catholic University of America Press, 1965)

Defends our Lady's perpetual virginity against Helvidius, with a beautiful eulogy of virginity.

St. JEROME            *Letters of St. Jerome [Epistulae] Vol. I* (Paulist Press, 1962) Especially interesting are the letters on exegesis, virginity, widowhood, and the education of youth. Useful for those with solid theological formation.

St. JOHN CASSIAN    *The Conferences [Collationes]* (Paulist Press, 1997) 24 conferences on interior life, addressed to desert monks. Although written in the context of monastic life, the practical applications and suggestions can be helpful for everyone. Useful for those with solid theological formation.

St. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM    *Baptismal Instruction* (Newman Press, 1963)

This famous work of catechesis stands out among St. John Chrysostom's writings. The twelve lessons are a sound moral guide for Christians to grow in their adherence to Christ. Useful for all.

St. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM    *The Priesthood [De Sacerdotio]* in *St John Chrysostom: Six Books on the Priesthood* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press; new edition, 1996) [NB: *The Introduction to this edition contains some confusing and possibly misleading ideas about the nature of the priest's powers in conferring sacramental absolution, Baptism, and confecting the Eucharist*]

6 short books written in dialogue form covering the priesthood, its moral demands, and the pivotal aspects of priestly ministry. Requires good theological formation.

St. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM    *Homilies on the Gospel of St. John [In Ioannem Homiliae]* in *Saint Chrysostom: Homilies on the Gospel of St. John and the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Kessinger Publishing, 2004 and Eerdmans, 1978)

More polemical than his homilies on St. Matthew's Gospel since it is written against the Arians, who were twisting texts from John's Gospel to deny the consubstantiality of the Son with the Father. Offers primarily a moral exegesis, stressing the demands required for following Christ.

St. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM    *Homilies on the Gospel of St. Matthew [In Matthaem Homiliae]* in *Saint Chrysostom's Homilies on the Gospel of Saint Matthew* (Kessinger Publishing, 2004) and in *St. John Chrysostom: Spiritual Gems from the Gospel of Matthew* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2004)

This complete commentary on Matthew defends the unity of Scripture. God is the lawgiver for both Covenants; the Old Testament prepares for the New. Confronting Arianism, it emphasizes the equality of the Father and the Son. Man's ultimate end is to give glory to God. Stresses love for God's law and living the virtues, with many practical examples. Contains many references to how the early Christians lived their faith in the middle of the world.

St. JOHN DAMASCENE    *Christological and Marian Homilies [Homiliae]*

Deeply theological and also very practical homilies. The ones about Christmas and our Lady's Dormition merit special attention.

St. JUSTIN MARTYR        *The Apologies [Apologiae]* in *St. Justin Martyr: The First and Second Apologies* (Paulist Press, 1996); also found in *The Writings of Justin Martyr* (B&H Publishing Group, 1); *The Apologies of Justin Martyr* (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006)

Addressed to the Emperor in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, these two works defend Christians who were being unjustly persecuted. Deals with Christian doctrine and worship, the historical foundation of Christianity and reasons for embracing it. The persecutions are seen as offering Christians an opportunity to show the superiority of their religion over paganism.

St. LEO THE GREAT *Homilies [Sermones]*

Follows the liturgical year: Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Particularly interesting are the homilies on the mystery of Christ: the hypostatic union, birth, passion, death and resurrection. Although accessible to all, those with good theological formation will draw the most benefit.

St. MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR *Meditations on Christ's Agony*

Fosters contemplation of our Lord's Sacred Humanity, while showing the complete harmony between Christ's human and divine will.

ORIGEN *Treatise on Prayer (De Oratione)*

Divided into two parts, the first on prayer in general and the second on the Our Father. An appendix deals with the importance of bodily gestures for prayer and the various types of prayer: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and petition. Requires good discernment and theological formation.

ORIGEN *Homilies on Exodus [In Exodum Homiliae]*

These thirteen homilies compare the people of Israel in Exodus with the Christian's journey to God the Father. Stresses the supernatural aim of our life here on earth. Requires some theological formation.

TERTULIAN *Apologia [Apologeticus] (Cambridge University Press)*

Addressed to governors of the Roman provinces in defense of persecuted Christians. He argues that it is unjust to persecute Christians as atheists, since they adore the one true God, Creator of the world. Defends freedom to practice one's own religion, and stresses that all authority comes from God and that Christians are not enemies of the State, giving details of Christian worship. The final section makes clear that Christianity is not a new philosophy but a divine revelation.

St. VINCENT OF LERINS *Commonitory, Admonition [Commonitorium] (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1914)*

This short work was written in a monastery in southern France soon after the Council of Ephesus. Filled with love for the Church and the faith. Gives guidelines on being faithful in times of doctrinal confusion, with a simple and clear summary of the doctrine on the Blessed Trinity and the Incarnation. Requires some theological formation.

COLLECTION Claire RUSSELL, ed; *Glimpses of the Church Fathers* (Scepter, 1994)  
Collection of texts introducing Catholics (and non-Catholics) to the writings of the Church Fathers.

## **II. Classical Works of Spirituality**

St. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI *Vocation to the Religious State in The great means of salvation and of perfection* (Benziger, 3rd edition, 1886)

Stresses the moral obligation to follow God's call without delay. In reading this short work, one needs to distinguish between what applies to all Christians and what applies to those called to the religious state.

St. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI *The Glories of Mary*

Commentary on the *Salve Regina*, with many examples of extraordinary supernatural events and aspects of the interior life not found in ordinary Christians; thus good discernment is needed.

St. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI      *The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ in Selected Writings* (Paulist Press; new edition, 1)

With his focus especially on charity and piety, the author seeks to foster a desire for interior life. Practical and readily understandable.

St. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI,      *The Passion of Jesus Christ* (TAN Books), also in *Complete Works of St. Alphonsus de Liguori*, vol. 5 (Benzinger Bros. 1887)

A collection of reflections on the Passion published on different occasions. Fosters devotion to Christ's Holy Humanity.

St. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI      *Visits to the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary* (Liguori Publication, 1994)

A short book with 30 visits to the Blessed Sacrament, one for each day of the month. Contains practical advice for devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and for increasing one's faith in the Real Presence. Each visit concludes with a pious prayer to our Lady.

St. BERNARD      *Opera Omnia*

All of St. Bernard's writings are good for spiritual reading, especially for well-formed readers.

St. BERNARD      *Sermons in Sermons of St. Bernard on Advent & Christmas* (Ignatius Press, 2001); *Lent with St. Bernard: A Devotional Commentary on Psalm Ninety-one* (Mowbray & Co., 1954); *Sermons for the Seasons and Principal Festivals of the Year* (Carroll Press, 1950)

These sermons contain a wealth of piety and doctrine on a variety of topics (humility, trust in God, the sacraments, etc.). Many are occasioned by feasts of our Lady and illustrate her privileges.

Giovanni Cardinal BONA      *The Sacrifice of the Mass* (Art & Book Co., 1914)

This 17th century author offers brief reflections, both deep and practical, on how to take part more devoutly and draw greater fruit from the Holy Mass. Stresses the sacrificial character of the Mass, and its centrality to Christian life. Although written for priests, the book can be of benefit to all.

Nicolas CABASILAS      *Life in Christ* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press)

A 14th century Greek Orthodox author writes about attaining close union with Christ and sharing in his divine life through prayer and the sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Very useful for those with solid theological formation. Some of the descriptions of liturgical ceremonies apply to the Eastern Rites.

St. CATHERINE OF SIENNA      *Dialogue* (Cosimo Classics, 2007; TAN Books)

14th century work, written in the form of a dialogue with our Lord, that addresses central elements of the spiritual life: the theological virtues, devotion to Christ's Sacred Humanity, divine providence, sin, etc., with a long chapter on the priesthood. Its lively yet practical style can help the reader pray, fostering desires for self-knowledge and contrition. Useful for those with good theological formation and experience of the interior life.

St. FRANCIS DE SALES      *Introduction to the Devout Life* (Cosimo Classics, 2007; Vintage, 2002; TAN Books; Image)

17th century author covers the central aspects of true piety: the sacraments, prayer, the principal Christian virtues, etc. Contains a wealth of teaching. Although written for lay people, it does not offer a properly lay spirituality. Of most benefit to those with discernment and experience in the ascetical struggle.

St. FRANCIS DE SALES *Treatise on the Love of God* (TAN Books, 1997) Focuses on friendship with God, especially in and through prayer. Quite a practical work, with many examples and comparisons, although some people may find it heavy going. Contains abundant doctrine, without requiring too much theological formation. With regard to the underlying spirituality, see previous comment.

Fray Luis de GRANADA *Sinners Guide* (TAN Books, 1997)

16th century author urges readers to foster abhorrence for sin, abandonment in God, and a life of humility and prayer. Especially recommended for those with more experience in the interior struggle.

Fray Luis de GRANADA *Book of Prayer and Meditation*

Reflections on the main mysteries of our faith. Part I contains fourteen meditations on the Passion, stresses the abhorrence we should foster for sin, and considers the last things. Part II discusses difficulties in prayer and how to overcome them. Useful for everyone.

Fray Luis de GRANADA *Life of Christ* (St. Paul Books and Media)

Reflections on our Lord's life, especially his Passion. Helpful for grasping the value of suffering and sacrifice done out of love, and for fostering generosity in one's self-giving to God. Of benefit to all.

St. JOHN OF AVILA *John of Avila: Audi, Filia* (Paulist Press, 2006)

Advice on the interior life covering a wide variety of topics in an informal and lively way. Focuses particularly on the virtue of faith, the greatness of God's mercy, and contemplation of Christ's Sacred Humanity.

St. JOHN OF AVILA *Pláticas Espirituales para Sacerdotes*

A collection of talks focusing especially on the holiness priests must strive for to imitate Christ, and the rectitude of intention required in their priestly ministry. Written clearly and simply.

St. JOHN OF AVILA *Sermons on the Holy Spirit (The Holy Ghost)* (Scepter 1959)

Sermons preached during the season of Pentecost to foster friendship with and devotion to the Holy Spirit. Solid and deep doctrine presented in a simple and direct way.

St. JOHN OF THE CROSS *Spiritual Canticle* (in *Collected Works*)

This poem and detailed commentary tries to express in human language the soul's mystical union with God. Highlights three stages of the soul's journey to God that ends with "spiritual espousal." Requires solid formation in order not to get caught up in a superficial sentimentalism that the author sought to avoid.

St. JOHN OF THE CROSS *Living Flame of Love* (in *Collected Works*)

The mystical life expressed through poetic language. Depicts the soul closely united to God and free of all fear, wholly absorbed in contemplating the Blessed Trinity.

St. JOHN OF THE CROSS *The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross* (Institute of Carmelite Saints Publications, revised edition 1991; Cosimo Classics, 2007, Image)

All of his writings make for good spiritual reading, especially for well-formed people. Although his works reflect a Carmelite spirituality, like all great spiritual classics they transcend any particular spirituality. Requires a certain discernment in

order to understand well some teachings that seem to conflict with seeking holiness in ordinary life in the world.

St. JOHN OF THE CROSS     *The Dark Night of the Soul* (in *Collected Works*)

Describes the spiritual life as an ascent to God through various stages or nights of purification of the soul: active and passive nights of the senses and the spirit. This journey is condensed into a famous poem, which he comments on verse by verse. Discernment is needed to distinguish between what is valid for the spiritual life of all Christians from what is proper to religious life.

Thomas a KEMPIS     *The Imitation of Christ* (Dover Publications; Moody Publishers; TAN Books; Paraclete Press; Penguin Classics, etc.)

This 14th or 15th century work contains points of meditation attributed to Thomas a Kempis. It sets forth, with clarity and piety, aspects of the spiritual life that are useful for everyone. But it is good to keep in mind that the author writes from the perspective of a religious.

Fray Alonso de MADRID     *El Arte de Servir a Dios*

Short and systematic introduction to the spiritual life that teaches the reader how to respond to God's grace. St. Teresa of Avila frequently recommended this book. Some may find its archaic style difficult.

St. MARY MAGDALENE OF PAZZI     *Los cuarenta días*

Describes her ecstasies and spiritual experience over a period of forty days. Focuses especially on the religious vocation and on God's mercy, shown in our Lord's Passion and in the Eucharist. For persons with good doctrinal formation, experience in the interior life and sound criteria.

St. Thomas MORE     *Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation* (Scepter)

St. Thomas More's longest work, written in prison while awaiting execution. The format is a dialogue between two characters, Anthony and Vincent, who represent thoughtfulness and superficiality, wisdom and curiosity. Discusses various temptations and how to overcome them.

St. Thomas MORE     *The Sadness of Christ* (Scepter)

Commentary on the Gospel accounts of our Lord's prayer in the Garden of Olives. Rich in doctrine and piety, helping one to contemplate Christ's life and become his friend. The author brings the Gospel scenes alive, applying them in practical ways to ordinary life.

St. Thomas MORE     *The Last Letters of Thomas More* (Eerdmans; Kessinger)

Letters written during the 15 months he spent in the Tower of London prior to his martyrdom in 1535. Includes some letters from his wife and daughters to provide context. At the end, it also contains prayers, instructions, and a meditation, written by St. Thomas More. Provides eloquent testimony to the author's fortitude and wisdom, his faith and dedication to God, and his refined sense of justice. Beneficial for all, especially those with some cultural background.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN     *A Letter Addressed to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk on Occasion of Mr. Gladstone's Recent Expostulation* On the moral conscience and its freedom. Defends Catholics from the charge that submission to the Roman Pontiff robs them of their freedom. It also defends papal infallibility, fidelity to the Catholic Church, and tradition. A classic work of apologetics.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN     *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* (Kessinger Publishing, 2007) Written in 1845, as Newman was about to become a Catholic.

Distinguishes true development of doctrine within the Church as a living organism from false development. Requires solid intellectual formation.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (Dover Publications, 2005)

Responds to written attacks after becoming a Catholic. Presents an elegant defense of his conversion and of the Catholic Church. Of great value for apologetics.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN *Discourses to Mixed Congregations* (Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2003)

A collection of 18 sermons for Anglicans exhorting them to embrace the Catholic faith. Covers the most important points of the faith. Written with great apostolic fervor. Very useful for university students and intellectuals.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN *Parochial and Plain Sermons* (Ignatius Press, 1997)

Filled with piety and solid spiritual and psychological insight. Although written before his conversion, the doctrine is entirely Catholic.

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN *The Mystical Rose* (Scepter)

Contains some of Newman's writings on our Lady published at various times, followed by reflections on the invocations in the Litany of Loretto for the month of May. Useful for everyone.

Fray Francisco de OSUNA *Alfabeto Espiritual*

Seeks to foster an ongoing dialogue with God throughout the day. Topics covered include prayer, guarding one's heart, examination of conscience, spiritual guidance, suffering, presence of God, humility, imitating Christ, perseverance, etc. Useful for people with solid formation.

PALAFOX, Venerable Juan de *El Pastor de Nochebuena*

Using the literary device of an angel helping a shepherd to grasp the truth, the author gives simple suggestions on how to grow in interior life and the Christian virtues. Most helpful for those with good theological formation.

Luis de la PALMA *The Sacred Passion* (Scepter, 2004)

A simple and sober account of our Lord's Passion, presented with sound doctrine and piety. Helps the reader to know and love Christ, and to grow in a spirit of mortification, contrition and atonement. Useful for all.

Gioachino PECCI (Leo XIII) *The Practice of Humility* (St. Paul Editions, 1978)

A short, practical book for prayer and meditation, offering suggestions on how to grow in humility.

St. PETER OF ALCANTARA *Treatise on Prayer and Meditation in Treatise on Prayer and Meditation; Together with a Complete English Version of Pax Animae* (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, 1926), *A Golden Treatise of Mental Prayer* (Mowbray & Co., 1905)

On the necessity, benefits and difficulties of prayer, with seven meditations on the Passion that foster devotion to Christ's Sacred Humanity. Useful for everyone.

St. Joseph Sebastian PELCZAR *Meditations on Priestly Life [Rozmyślania o życiu kapłańskim]*

John Paul II mentions this book in *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way* as a work that significantly shaped his priesthood. Christ the supreme priest is placed at the center of the priest's spiritual life, showing the importance of prayer and mortification, Mass preparation, etc. It continuously refers to Scripture and the Fathers, with abundant citations from St. John Chrysostom, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Alphonsus Liguori. Useful for priests.

St. Joseph Sebastian PELCZAR *Spiritual Life [życie duchowe]*

Published in 1873, this classic of Polish spiritual literature is based on Scripture and the Fathers, especially St. Augustine, St. Jerome, and St. Gregory, with other citations from St. Bernard, St. Bonaventure, St. Thomas, Thomas a Kempis, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Alphonsus Liguori. Christ is presented as the source and model of holiness, and the Christian path is seen as a call for all Christians to strive for sanctity.

PIUS V *The Catechism of the Council of Trent* (TAN Books)

A clear presentation of Catholic doctrine, imbued with piety. Although replaced by the current *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (published in 1992), it remains very useful for theological and spiritual formation.

Luis de la PUENTE *Meditations on the Mysteries of Our Holy Faith, Together with a Treatise on Mental Prayer* (Richardson, 1861)

Collection of meditations on Christ's life, the last things and the principal truths of the faith. Helps nourish prayer and a deeper grasp of the Gospel teachings. For well-formed people.

Alonso RODRÍGUEZ *Ejercicio de perfección y virtudes cristianas*

An extensive treatise on the interior life, with practical and detailed suggestions regarding the desire for holiness, prayer, mortification, humility, the Holy Mass and Communion. Part III is addressed to members of religious orders. Parts I and II can benefit everyone.

Lawrence SCUPOLI *The Spiritual Combat* (The Newman Press, 1950; TAN Books, 1997)

This 16th century classic on Christian asceticism has greatly influenced subsequent writers. Stresses the need to struggle against disordered passions and to grow in love for God, with practical advice on how to focus one's struggle.

Adolphe TANQUEREY *La Divinisation de la souffrance / La divinización del sufrimiento*

Stresses the need for a spirit of mortification, penance, and atonement. For those with some experience in the interior struggle.

Adolphe TANQUEREY *Forming Select Souls* [published in Spanish as *Para hacer apóstoles* (Palabra 1994)]

A series of guidelines useful for those who have the task of spiritually guiding others.

St. TERESA OF AVILA *The Way of Perfection*

About growing in virtue and advancing in mental and vocal prayer. Much of it focuses on the Our Father and how to pray it more profitably. A simple and practical book that is useful for all.

St. TERESA OF AVILA *The Interior Castle*

Describes the stages in the soul's journey towards union with God, specifically the stages of prayer and contemplation. Those with some experience in the interior life will benefit most.

St. TERESA OF AVILA *The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila: The Life of St. Teresa of Jesus*

Fosters the longing to give oneself completely to God, to pray and grow in humility. Recommended for everyone.

St. TERESA OF AVILA *The Book of Foundations*

Relates events involved in opening new convents and reforming the Carmelite Order. Useful suggestions for growing in interior life and becoming a close friend of Christ. Stresses the unity between interior life and apostolic zeal. Useful for everyone.

St. TERESA OF AVILA      *Opera omnia—The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila*  
(Institute of Carmelite St Publications, 1985) or individual titles (TAN Books; Penguin Classics; Image; Paulist Press)

All of St. Teresa of Avila's writings are beneficial for spiritual reading, especially for well-formed persons. They contain rich material for prayer and for living the virtues. The focus is on the religious life, but her works have content applicable to all. She frequently mentions extraordinary mystical phenomena without fostering an inclination towards them, as is clear by her down-to earth, common-sense way of speaking about them.

St. THERESE OF LISIEUX      *The Story of a Soul* (Saint Anthony Messenger Press, 2006; BiblioBazaar, 2007; Institute of Carmelite St Publications, 1996; TAN Books; Image)

The saint's autobiography. The first part goes through the external events of her life; part two focuses on her interior life and ascetical struggle. She teaches the reader how to lead a "life of spiritual childhood." Particularly useful for simplifying one's interior life and for giving importance to little things. Contains many points relevant to ordinary lay faithful, along with others suited to a religious spirituality. Of benefit to all.

St. THOMAS AQUINAS      *Catechetical Instructions of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Sinag-Tala)

A collection of Lenten sermons delivered in 1273 on the Creed, the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary* and the ten commandments. Also includes a short work on the Sacraments. The style is concise but has many divisions and distinctions, which requires attention and effort on the part of the reader. Rich in doctrinal content and piety, helping the reader discover the richness of Sacred Scripture. Useful for everyone.

Joseph TISSOT *The Interior Life* (Newman, 1952)

This systematic treatment of the interior life—its nature, divisions, goal, means, etc.—is simpler than other classical books on ascetical and mystical theology. Useful for all, but requires discernment since it is based on the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

Joseph TISSOT *How to Profit From Your Faults* (Scepter)

The underlying theme is the humility that comes from confronting one's own mistakes and weaknesses. Fosters a desire for self-knowledge and a spirit of atonement. Some sections of the book are more suitable for those living a religious spirituality.

Josef Ignacio VALLEJO      *Vida del Señor San Josef, dignísimo Esposo de la Virgen María y Padre Putativo de Jesús*

Encourages devotion to and friendship with St Joseph. Useful for everybody.

St. VICENTE FERRER *Sermons*

A collection of homilies for ordinary Christians on a wide variety of topics. The author is a fifteenth century Dominican.

Fray XIMÉNEZ DE CISNEROS      *Ejercitatorio de la Vida Espiritua*

Reflections on the contemplative life, stressing friendship with God and perseverance in practices of piety. Although written primarily for religious, in language proper to them, it can be helpful in fostering prayer and examination of conscience.

### **III. Books by Contemporary Authors**

#### **a) Recent Roman Pontiffs**

BENEDICT XVI      *Saint Paul* (Ignatius Press)

Collects the teachings from Benedict XVI's general audiences on St. Paul, in the year dedicated to the Apostle to the Gentiles.

BENEDICT XVI *Jesus of Nazareth* (Doubleday)

Reflections on Jesus Christ, from his Baptism to the Transfiguration. The central theme is the revelation of his divinity.

BENEDICT XVI *Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church* (Ignatius Press) *Study Guide for the Apostles by Pope Benedict XVI* (Our Sunday Visitor)

Contains the Pope's catechesis between March 2006 and February 2007, dedicated to the apostles of the Church.

JOHN PAUL II *Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way* (Grand Central Publ.)

Memoirs and reflections on his twenty years as a bishop in Krakow, presenting a testimony of faith, optimism and love of God, from someone who didn't let fear dominate him in carrying out his duties amid great difficulties. Shows how God prepared the person who was to become one of the greatest popes in the Church's history.

JOHN PAUL II *Letters to My Brother Priests, Holy Thursday* (Scepter, Midwest Theological Forum)

John Paul II's Holy Thursday letters to priests from several years. Very useful for priests.

JOHN PAUL II *Gift and Mystery: On the Fiftieth Anniversary of my Priestly Ordination* (Doubleday, 1996)

His autobiographical memoirs and reflections on his priestly vocation.

JOHN PAUL II *My Dear Young Friends: Pope John Paul II Speaks to Teens on Life, Love, and Courage* (St. Mary's Press, 2001); *John Paul II, We Love You: World Youth Day Reflections, 1984-2005* (St. Mary's Press, 2005)

Words addressed to young people at the world youth day encounters.

JOHN PAUL II *Memory and Identity* (Easton Press, 2004)

This book arose from some discussions at Castelgandolfo with Professors Josef Tishner and Krystof Michalski. Some time later, the Pope read the transcript and decided to turn it into a book. Addresses key issues, such as the reality of evil, with deep intellectual insight. Useful for readers with good cultural formation.

JOHN PAUL II *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* (Knopf, 1995)

Interview with Italian journalist Vittorio Messori covering religious, doctrinal and moral issues of central concern today. John Paul II's vision is hopeful and positive. Useful for all.

Joseph RATZINGER *To look on Christ: Exercises in Faith, Hope, and Love* (Crossroad, 1991)

Reflections on the theological virtues.

Joseph RATZINGER *Salt of the Earth: The Church at the End of the Millennium: An Interview With Peter Seewald* (Ignatius, 1997)

A probing look at the life and thought of Joseph Ratzinger: his childhood, family and hobbies, priestly vocation and theological activity, involvement in the Second Vatican Council, and work as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Addresses frankly and calmly the most pressing issues (liberation theology, bioethics, priestly celibacy, dissent...) as well as the situation of the Church in various countries and its relations with other religions. Confronts painful questions with great openness and honesty.

- Joseph RATZINGER *The Spirit of the Liturgy* (Ignatius 2000)  
 Reflections on the mystery of Christian worship. Seeks to recover and foster a spirit of faith and piety in the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass, and to strengthen the link between liturgy and Christian life. For people with some theological formation.
- Joseph RATZINGER *The Meaning of Christian Brotherhood* (Ignatius, 1993)  
 From a course he taught in the 1950's. Argues that the meaning of the term "brotherhood" depends, ultimately, on the concept one has of God and his fatherhood.
- Joseph RATZINGER *Truth and Tolerance: Christian Belief and World Religions* (Ignatius, 2004)  
 Defends the faith in a multicultural context, arguing that faith transcends culture. A thoughtful book useful for responding to issues often confronted in the apostolate.
- Joseph RATZINGER *God is Near Us. The Eucharist, the Heart of Life* (Ignatius Press, 2003)  
 These thirteen short chapters on the mystery of the Eucharist are from sermons delivered as archbishop of Munich. The topics are covered in a deep theological and spiritual way, resulting in a balanced and very useful synthesis of doctrine and piety. Although the tone is not academic or specialist, certain parts may require some basic cultural and theological formation, since the author seeks to illuminate some issues that have led to objections or doctrinal errors.
- Joseph RATZINGER *God and the World: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*  
 Interview format addresses questions about God, Jesus Christ and the Church in the language of present-day culture. Will enrich the doctrinal formation of any reader who has a good intellectual level.
- Joseph RATZINGER *Co-Workers of the Truth: Meditations for Every Day of the Year*  
 Recommendations and meditations for each day of the year.
- Joseph RATZINGER *Ratzinger Report: An Exclusive Interview on the State of the Church*  
 Italian journalist Vittorio Mesori interviews the then Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The book identifies some dangers to the faith, but not in a pessimistic tone. It is also an invitation to hope and fidelity. Useful for doctrinal formation and for the apostolate.
- Karol WOJTYLA *Love and Responsibility* (Ignatius Press, revised ed., 1993).  
 Study of sexual ethics in light of the dignity of the human person. Requires philosophical formation.

## **b) Various Authors**

- Javier ABAD *Cuando habla el corazón*  
 Aims at facilitating the practice of mental prayer, with abundant material from St. Josemaría and other selected quotes. Fosters a loving dialogue with our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Useful for everyone.
- Javier ABAD *Fidelity - Tireless Perseverance in One's Vocation* (Sinag-Tala)  
 Attractive and clear book on the virtue of fidelity, practical ways of cultivating it, obstacles, etc. Useful for everyone.
- Michael ADAMS *The Hard Life* (Four Courts Press, 1987; Scepter, 1997)  
 Concise, forceful and practical book, written for young people, with good arguments for overcoming lukewarmness and doubts of faith in the apostolate.
- M. Mercedes ÁLVAREZ PÉREZ *Camino a Auschwitz*  
 Good biography of St. Edith Stein suitable for young people, covering the most significant events in her life. Written in a clear and direct style, it gives moving

testimony to this contemporary saint's Christian courage, strength of character, life of contemplative prayer, and faithfulness to her vocation. Also persuasively shows her generosity in little things of ordinary life.

Franco AMERIO *La Dottrina della Fede*

Extensive and attractively-written explanation of Catholic doctrine covering dogmatic, moral, and spiritual topics. Defends the faith with solid reasoning and examples drawn from the human sciences. Frequently confronts widespread doctrinal errors, with an appendix on Catholic social teaching by Javier Hervada. Although written before the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is a helpful and worthwhile book, especially for people with good cultural formation.

Félix María AROCENA *Contemplar la Eucaristía*

A selection of texts from the Magisterium and the Liturgy, with brief ascetical and doctrinal introductions.

Félix María AROCENA *En el Corazón de la Liturgia. La celebración Eucarística*

Comprehensive study of the Liturgy based on Scripture and tradition, with a pious reflection on the meaning of each element of the Mass. For people with some cultural and doctrinal formation.

Raphael BALBÍN *Sacrificio y alegría*

On the human and Christian meaning of mortification and penance, as a source of Christian optimism when seen as a sharing in Christ's suffering and death. Refers frequently to the spirit of the Work. Each chapter begins with some aspect of daily life. Useful for everyone.

Chamoine BARTHAS *Our Lady of Light* (Bruce Publ. Co, 1947)

Account of the apparitions at Fatima in 1917 that encourages devotion to our Lady, especially in praying the Rosary. Increases awareness of the evil of sin and the desire to atone through penance and mortification. All will find this book helpful.

Benedict BAUR *Frequent Confession* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

A commentary on Pope Pius XII's teachings in the encyclical *Mystici Corporis* on the sacrament of Penance. Encourages readers to examine their conscience and to truly appreciate this sacrament. Covers the basics and is helpful for everybody, including those with more experience in the interior life.

Benedict BAUR *In Silence with God* (Scepter)

Seeks to foster a life of prayer and intimacy with God. Imbued with piety and doctrine, it offers a good overview of the interior life and ascetical struggle. Practical and easy to read. Very useful for everyone.

Benedict BAUR *Light of the World* (Herder Book Co., 1964)

Introduction to the meaning of the liturgy, through a study of the missal and breviary. Written with a sober style, it fosters piety and a desire to improve. For well-formed people.

Charles BELMONTE *Understanding the Mass* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Explains the Mass clearly and simply, covering each part of the liturgy and showing the centrality of the Mass in Christian life. Helpful to all.

Rod BENNETT *Four Witnesses: The Early Church in her Own Words* (Ignatius Press, 2002)

An attractive introduction to the life and faith of the early Church through texts chosen from four Fathers of the Church: St. Clement of Rome, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Justin Martyr and St. Irenaeus of Lyon. Includes commentary by the author.

- Robert Hugh BENSON *Confessions of a Convert* (Dodo Press, 2008)  
 Describes the author's gradual discovery of Catholicism, and the difficulties he had to confront: intellectual bias, sentimental attachments, external obstacles.... A clear and lively defense of the faith of the Catholic Church.
- Robert Hugh BENSON *The Friendship of Christ. Exploring the Humanity of Jesus Christ* (Scepter)  
 Opens with a brief description of the purgative, illuminative, and unitive way; then offers suggestions on how to find our Lord in his Sacred Humanity (in the Eucharist, the Church, the priest, the sinner, the sick). Finishes with reflections on Christ's seven last words on the Cross. A pious book with sound doctrine, suited to everyone.
- MARIE VINCENT BERNADOT *From Holy Communion, to the Blessed Trinity* (Newman Press, 1959)  
 This short, pious book considers our union with Christ in the Eucharist and, in Him, with the Blessed Trinity. Especially helpful for fostering greater devotion to the Blessed Trinity and receiving Holy Communion more fruitfully.
- Eugene BOYLAN *Difficulties in Mental Prayer* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter)  
 Advice on how to pray and overcome difficulties in prayer (distractions, dryness, etc.). Written clearly and simply, it is very useful for everyone.
- Eugene BOYLAN *Partnership with Christ* (Mercer Press, 1978)  
 Fosters trust in God as the foundation for our struggle for holiness. Easy to read.
- Eugene BOYLAN *The Mystical Body* (Mercier Press, 1947,1964)  
 Explains how the Church is Christ's Mystical Body, with practical suggestion for the interior life. Easy to read, with many practical examples. Very useful for those with some theological formation.
- Eugene BOYLAN *The Spiritual Life of the Priest* (Newman Press, 1959); *The Priest's Way to God* (1962)  
 Although written for priests, this book can benefit everyone. Covers the principal points of the interior life: the Holy Mass, mental prayer, spiritual reading, devotion to the Holy Spirit, humility, right intention, union with Christ.
- Eugene BOYLAN *This Tremendous Lover* (Christian Classics)  
 Thorough study of our incorporation in Christ through grace. A Christ-centered presentation of the Sacraments, prayer, mortification, spiritual reading, and other aspects of the interior life, with many useful suggestions. Has proved very useful for acquiring a doctrinal piety. Of benefit to everyone.
- Jutta BURGGRAF *Libertad vivida con la fuerza de la fe*  
 An essay on Christian freedom, presented in a systematic and clear manner. Urges readers to open their heart to God's grace, in a trusting filial relationship.
- Cormac BURKE *Conscience and Freedom*, (Sinag-Tala, 1977, 1992)  
 Contains four essays, two on conscience and two on freedom. Describes the crisis that rejecting objective truth provokes. For people with a solid cultural background.
- Cormac BURKE *Covenanted Happiness* (Scepter)  
 Explains clearly the reasons for the unity and indissolubility of marriage. The focus is doctrinal rather than ascetical. For people with a good cultural level.
- L. Joseph CALLENS *La Pédagogie du Saint Esprit*  
 Covers a wide range of topics: hunger for God, grace, inspirations of the Holy Spirit, our response to God, a spirit of mortification, detachment, abandonment, purification, etc. Requires some formation.

- L. Joseph CALLENS *Our Search for God* (Herder, 1964)  
Emphasizes the need to be close to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and to abandon ourselves to the divine Will in order to attain true union with God.
- Salvador CANALS *Jesus as Friend* (Four Courts Press, Sinag-Tala, Scepter, 1997)  
Covers basic topics of the interior life, in light of the spirit of the Work, including common difficulties and how to resolve them. Clear and direct. Very useful for all.
- A CARTHUSIAN *Das Leben in Gott*  
A short treatise on the need for prayer and God's sanctifying work. Also includes sermons on some liturgical feasts. Deep reflections expressed with simplicity, helping one focus on what is essential in the interior life. Useful for everyone.
- A CARTHUSIAN *La Sainte Trinité et la vie surnaturelle*  
Sets forth the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, seeking to foster personal friendship with the three Divine Persons. For people with good theological formation.
- José María CASCIARO *Jesús de Nazareth*  
Professor of Sacred Scripture offers a series of reflections on our Lord, including how to talk to him in prayer and become more familiar with the Gospels.
- Enrique CASES MARTÍN *Los Doce Apóstoles*  
On the twelve Apostles and how God's grace helped each one become a saint and pillar of the Church, despite their defects and rough edges. Stresses the importance of being faithful, loyal and noble. An early chapter deals with God's call and its theological and ascetical implications; another chapter focuses on Judas' betrayal. Frequently quotes St. Josemaría. Best suited for people with some general culture.
- Jean Baptiste CHAUTARD *The Soul of the Apostolate* (TAN Books, 1977)  
Spells out how interior life is a prerequisite for a fruitful apostolate. Written by a Trappist monk, it can give the impression that the apostolate consists primarily in carrying out parish and other social work. But keeping this in mind, the book is useful for everyone.
- Gilbert Keith CHESTERTON *St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox* (Image, 1974)  
Chesterton's lively style and telling anecdotes make this biography attractive, helping one appreciate the doctrinal and cultural importance of St. Thomas' writings. An important book of apologetics. Very useful.
- Georges CHEVROT *Dans Le Secret*  
Exhorts the reader to strive for a deeper interior life and a right intention, with reflections mainly on the last part of the Sermon on the Mount. The chapters on trusting and sincere prayer, union with God's will (to want and to do what God wants), and Christian asceticism are particularly good.
- Georges CHEVROT *"Et Moi, Je Vous Dis..."*  
A commentary on the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:17-48), complementing the book above. Useful for all.
- Georges CHEVROT *The Well of Life* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter, 1983)  
Commentary on our Lord's encounter with the Samaritan woman (Jn 4:6-42), with practical applications for Christian living.
- Georges CHEVROT *On the Third Day* (Scepter, 1961)  
Commentary on our Lord's resurrection and ascension into heaven, with a brief explanation of the liturgy of the Easter season.
- Georges CHEVROT *The Prodigal Son* (Scepter)

Reflections on the parable of the Prodigal Son that help that help the reader to appreciate God's mercy and to value contrition and the sacrament of Penance. Includes a short chapter on our Lady's spiritual maternity and one on the parable of the lost coin. Written with clarity and simplicity, it is good for everybody.

Georges CHEVROT *The Eight Beatitudes* (Sinag-Tala)

Simple commentary on the Eight Beatitudes. The chapters on the paradox of happiness, the importance of humility, self-mastery, zeal for holiness, and being a person of integrity are especially good.

Georges CHEVROT *Les petites vertus du foyer*

Collection of talks on virtues needed to get along with others, especially gratitude, patience and sincerity, which foster unity and peace within the family. Easy to read and practical, especially for those whose work involves homemaking.

Georges CHEVROT *Our Mass* (Liturgical Press, 1958)

Written before the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, it explains the Mass step-by-step, giving the historical background of each part. Offers suggestions on how to participate more fully in the liturgy and unite one's daily actions with the Mass. The style is simple and easy to read.

Georges CHEVROT *Simon Peter* (Scepter, 1959)

Gospel-based biography of St. Peter that also explains the figure of the Roman Pontiff in the Church. Written in an attractive manner and with deep piety, it encourages the reader to begin and begin again in the struggle for holiness, despite weaknesses and mistakes. Very useful for everyone..

Jean DAUJAT *The Faith Applied* (Scepter, Sinag-Tala)

Discusses the universal call to holiness, lukewarmness, mental and vocal prayer, presence of God, union with Christ, the meaning of the sacraments, and the Church's Magisterium.

Dorothy DOHEN *Journey to Bethlehem* (Fides Publishers, 1958)

In short chapters, the author presents Christian life as an on-going preparation, through growing in virtue, to receive Christ into our soul.

Dorothy DOHEN *Vocation to Love* (Sheed & Ward, 1951)

Centered on charity as the fullness of Christian life. Shows why charity gives life to all the other virtues, the value of detachment, and the need to unmask false expressions of human love. Easy-to-read, with many examples and stories from daily life.

Mercedes EGUIBAR GALARZA *¿Por qué se amotinan las Gentes?*

Commentary on Psalm II in light of St. Josemaría's teachings. Stresses especially freedom, sincerity, following Christ (Christian vocation, interior life), divine filiation, the need to acquire good formation and to do apostolate.

Mercedes EGUIBAR GALARZA *Vida de infancia espiritual*

On divine filiation as manifested in the life of spiritual childhood. Doctrinally correct, easy to understand, and with a lively and warm but not sentimental style. The authors cited are St. Josemaría, St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Faustina Kowalska. The texts are well chosen. It fosters filial piety and is useful for all readers.

Michel ESPARZA *Amor y autoestima*

Fosters self-knowledge and provides guidance on how to love. The style is pleasant and penetrating, with insightful points on Christian humility and self-forgetfulness, pride, and the causes of failed love. Makes interesting points about human affections, inner freedom, the energies of the heart, and self-delusion. Helps the

reader understand why God's Love is the only path to true self-fulfillment. In a warm and appealing way it discusses divine filiation, friendship with Christ, and the Father's mercy, while giving guidance on how to grow in God's Love.

Julio EUGUI *Dios, Desconocido y Cercano*

Explains the main Christian mysteries in easy-to-read language with abundant examples. Good for those who need basic doctrinal formation.

Jean De FABREGUES *El Santo Cura de Ars*

Easy-to-read biography that urges the reader to love God wholeheartedly. For well-formed people.

Walter FARRELL; Martin J. HEALY *My Way of Life: Pocket Edition of St. Thomas—The Summa Simplified for Everyone* (Confraternity of the Precious Blood, 1952) Summary of Walter Farrell's longer book, *A Companion to the Summa*. An easy-to-read summary of the teachings of St. Thomas that follows the structure of the *Summa Theologica*: Part I, God and creatures (the existence of God, the Blessed Trinity, creation, etc.); Part II, man, made in God's image (happiness, morality, sin, the law, grace, virtues, etc.); Part III, Jesus Christ (the Incarnation, Redemption, the Sacraments). The portions on Mariology and on the Church are somewhat incomplete. Very useful for deepening one's knowledge of Christian doctrine.

Eugenio FENOY; Javier ABAD *Marriage, a Path to Sanctity* (Sinag-Tala) A good guide for married couples and those preparing for marriage. Presents marriage as a path to holiness and the positive meaning and value of conjugal chastity. Stresses the apostolate carried out within the family, often quoting St Josemaría.

Francisco FERNÁNDEZ (CARVAJAL) *Como quieras tú. Cuarenta meditaciones sobre la Pasión del Señor*

Reflections on the Passion, with many references to the Fathers, the Magisterium, and some spiritual writers, particularly St. Josemaría. The texts are brief, interspersed with anecdotes and practical suggestions. Good for all.

Francisco FERNÁNDEZ (CARVAJAL) *In Conversation with God* (Scepter)

Seven-volume collection of meditations for each day of the liturgical calendar, including many feast days. It often refers to the Magisterium, the Church Fathers, and the saints, especially St. Josemaría. Useful for all.

Francisco FERNÁNDEZ (CARVAJAL) *Lukewarmness* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter)

Sets forth the dangers and signs of lukewarmness, and how to resist it effectively and overcome any discouragement. Easy-to-read and suitable for all.

Francisco FERNÁNDEZ (CARVAJAL) *Vida de Jesús*

Reflections on the Gospels that draw on historical knowledge about the epoch in which Christ lived. With frequent references to St. Josemaría's writings, it helps the reader to become Jesus' friend, as a real, living person. Useful for all.

Louis Claude FILLION *The Life of Christ: A Historical, Critical, and Apologetic Exposition* (Herder, 1948)

An extensive life of Christ that makes good use of historical and geographical facts to help in contemplating the Gospel scenes. Solid doctrinal and ascetical insights. Useful for everyone.

Francisco X. FORTÚN *El Sagrario y el Evangelio*

Contains 76 short meditations on the Blessed Eucharist written by a Benedictine priest. Each meditation ends by asking the Holy Spirit to grant a stronger love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in the point just contemplated.

Antonio FUENTES MENDIOLA *El Sentido Cristiano de la Riqueza*

Presents the Christian meaning of material goods and the virtue of poverty in two parts: "The riches that set us free" and "The challenges of a consumer society." Written for ordinary Christians living in the world, it comments on our Lord's Gospel teachings and example, urging the reader to be detached but also to use material goods to benefit others. Stresses the Christian duty to work hard and well, for love of God and the good of mankind.

Antonio FUENTES MENDIOLA      *La Aventura Divina de María*

A simple introduction to our Lady's life presenting her as an attractive model for young people. Stresses Mary's youthful love and irrevocable self-giving, with freedom and joy, in her *fiat* to God's will.

José Antonio GALERA *Sinceridad y Fortaleza*

Explains briefly and simply the need for the human virtues in leading a Christian life, with examples from daily life. A down-to-earth and practical consideration of sincerity. Especially helpful for those at the early stages of the interior struggle.

Ángel GARCÍA DORRONSORO      *Tiempo para creer*

A pleasant and easy-to-read collection of TV talks that help the reader to reflect on God's love, his goodness to us, and how to respond in our daily life by working well, in God's presence, doing everything for his glory.

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE      *Priesthood and Perfection* (Newman Press, 1955)

Written for priests, it stresses the priest's duty to seek holiness, focusing on the need for interior life in the priestly ministry, on some priestly virtues, and on the importance of mental prayer and Eucharistic worship.

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE      *The Three Ages of the Interior Life* (TAN Books)

Extensive treatise on ascetical and mystical theology that is deep and imbued with piety. Systematically outlines many key elements of the spiritual life, dealing extensively with the virtues and the life of prayer. It follows the classical division of the three stages of spiritual life, but the reader should realize that this is not a rigid division, despite the impression the author might give. Although not written in view of the vocation and mission proper to the laity, it contains much good doctrine for the discriminating reader. Those experienced in the interior struggle will benefit most; priests may find it helpful for their work of spiritual guidance.

Alban J. GOODIER      *The Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ* (St. Paul Books and Media)

This account of our Lord's Passion and Death frequently quotes St. Augustine and St. Catherine of Sienna, along with some contemporary spiritual writers.

Alban J. GOODIER      *The Public Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ* (St. Paul Books and Media)

A well-written account of Christ's public life, with many examples and stories.

Richard GRÄF *The Power of Prayer* (Newman Press, 1961)

Explains how Christian prayer is inseparable from the sanctifying grace we receive in the sacraments. Stresses the need for prayer and its goal: intimacy with God. Written around 1940.

Richard GRÄF *Lord, Teach us How to Pray* (F. Pustet Co, 1952)

Similar to the previous work.

Cardenal Georges GRENTÉ      *Our Father* (Scepter, 1997)

Study of the Lord's Prayer with many good insights about divine filiation, presence of God, Christian hope, God's will, the Eucharist, understanding others, etc. It addresses especially the mystery of suffering and sin. Useful for all.

Joseph GRIFONE *Des Évangiles à Jésus-Christ*

Structured along three steps, based on St. Josemaría's advice: "May you seek Christ, may you find Christ, may you love Christ." Blends doctrine and Christian life, stressing the transformation in Christ through the action of grace. Very useful for all.

Romano GUARDINI *Conscience* (Sheed & Ward, 1932)

Seeks to foster contemplation and to help the reader discover God's voice both within the soul and in daily life. Stresses the need for the human and supernatural means (dedicating time to God, interior mortification....). Helpful for people with intellectual formation.

Romano GUARDINI *The Lord* (Regnery, 1952, 1982)

Meditations on Jesus Christ that follow the Gospel narrative, seeking to discover our Lord's personality. Teaches the reader how to enter into the Gospels, and is useful for spiritual reading and mental prayer. For readers with some formation.

Romano GUARDINI *The Art of Praying* (Sophia Institute Press, 1994)

Shows how to make progress in the practice of mental prayer and overcome distractions. It explains prayer as a time of work, and outlines several different approaches to prayer. Includes a section on divine Providence. For readers with cultural and doctrinal formation.

Scott HAHN *Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God* (Doubleday, 2001)

The author explores the biblical and theological foundations of Marian devotion, in light of his own conversion from Presbyterianism. Defends devotion to our Lady, and explains her role as corremptrix.

Scott HAHN *Lord, have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession* (Doubleday, 2003)

Explains clearly and in a colloquial language that employs many puns, the scriptural foundation of repentance and confession. Useful for those beginning the Christian path, helping them to understand and take better advantage of the sacrament of confession. Provides valuable suggestions for an apostolate of confession.

Scott HAHN *Swear to God: The Promise and Power of the Sacraments* (Doubleday, 2004)

Goes back to the sources in Scripture and Tradition to explain the importance and richness of the seven sacraments established by Christ: doctrine, symbolism, history and rituals. The author narrates his personal experience and discovery of sacramental life, and helps the reader to understand the need for the sacraments in God's plan of salvation.

Scott HAHN *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth* (Doubleday) Develops the thesis that the book of Revelation is the best spiritual commentary on the Holy Mass: the heavenly Liturgy is the paradigm for the earthly Liturgy. The Mass, in turn, is seen as the key to interpreting the last book of the Bible. Written with depth and piety, it is helpful for strengthening the faith and piety of all who take part in the Eucharist.

Adalbert Gautier HAMMAN *La vie quotidienne des premiers chrétiens*

A good introduction to the Fathers of the Church. The author has also written other books on particular aspects of the lives of the early Christians, such as prayer. Highly recommended.

Charles HAURET *Les Adieux du Seigneur*

Ascetical commentary on chapters 13 to 18 of St. John's gospel that is somewhat labored, with several digressions. But it can help those with experience in the interior life to contemplate the Last Supper and our Lord's priestly prayer.

Kilian J. HEALY *Walking with God* (Sinag-Tala)

In this brief work, a Carmelite priest gives practical advice on how to grow in interior life: finding God in and through creatures; offering one's life in union with Christ; becoming more aware of the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity in our soul in grace; remembering to say aspirations throughout the day, etc. Written in a simple and clear style.

José María HERNÁNDEZ DE GARNICA *Perfección y Laicado* Written in 1955. Discusses the universal call to holiness and how ordinary faithful can strive for sanctity in the world, often quoting St. Josemaría. Draws practical consequences from the fact that the laity share in Christ's priestly, prophetic and kingly "munera."

Joseph HOLZNER *Paul of Tarsus* (Scepter)

Extensive biography (530 pages) of St. Paul, closely based on the New Testament and other historical sources; includes chronological tables and appendices. Stresses St. Paul's virtues, fidelity to his vocation, union with God, apostolic zeal in overcoming obstacles, etc. Outlines St. Paul's teaching in the context of the Jewish and pagan world, helping the reader to better understand St. Paul's letters. Very informative and useful for all.

Georges HUBER *My Angel Will Go Before You* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Briefly outlines the Church's teaching on the angels, drawing on the experience of some saints and mystics. Fosters devotion to the guardian angels. Written in a journalistic and clear style.

Hubert JONGEN *Onze Lieve Vrouw van Fatima*

An easy-to-read book on the apparitions of our Lady in Fatima. It often quotes Sor Lucia and fosters love for Mary, prayer, and doing penance for sins.

Charles JOURNET *The Meaning of Grace* (Scepter)

A clear theological exposition of the mystery of grace.

Charles JOURNET *The Mass: The Presence of the Sacrifice of the Cross* (St. Augustine Press, 2008)

A clear and systematic summary of Eucharistic doctrine. Very useful for growing in Eucharistic piety.

Ronald A. KNOX *A Retreat for Lay People* (Roman Catholic Books, 1990)

Series of retreat meditations on creation, sin, grace, our Lord's life, passion and death, etc. Each topic is applied to daily Christian life, urging the reader to make resolutions (to say the Rosary, be kind to people, embrace the Cross with love, etc.) Originally preached to university students.

Ronald A. KNOX *A Retreat for Priests* (Sheed & Ward, 1955)

18 conferences for priests' retreat on Holy Orders, sin, the Incarnation, our Lord's passion and death, detachment, the Eucharist, death, the need for vigilance, priestly dignity, hell, the Divine Office, meekness, prayer, sanctifying grace, our Lady, etc. Each talk begins with a scene from Scripture, and then draws practical applications for one's life. Sound doctrine expressed in an original way..

Ronald A. KNOX *The Hidden Stream* (Ignatius Press, 2002)

Series of talks of apologetics for Oxford University Catholic students, expressed with great wit and humor. On our knowledge of God, faith, miracles, Christ's divinity, the Church, sin, marriage, resurrection from the dead, etc. Very useful.

Ronald A. KNOX *The Pastoral and Occasional Sermons* (Ignatius Press, 2002)

These sermons, originally entitled "The Window in the Wall," cover the *Our Father*, Christ's temptations, the Sermon on the Mount, the meaning of suffering, etc. The 26 sermons were originally preached for the yearly feast of Corpus Christi in

London from 1926 onwards. The apologetical zeal and deep insight make the book particularly suitable for those in contact with Protestants.

Robert de LANGEAC *Living in God* (Newman Press, 1954)

The author's personal experience of God's action in his soul, drawing him to union with Him and to apostolic effectiveness. For well-formed people.

Edward LEEN *The Holy Ghost and his Work in Souls* (Sheed, 1946; Scepter, 1998)

Emphasizes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in souls, divine filiation, and the virtues and gifts. Contains solid considerations for one's interior life. Useful for well-formed people.

Edward LEEN *Why the Cross?* (Scepter, 2002)

Contrasts the tree of death in the Garden of Eden that ushered in sorrow, pain and death, and the tree of life (the Cross on Calvary) which brought about our salvation and redemption. Draws applications to Christian life in today's world. The author writes with faith and piety. For people with some cultural formation.

Vital LEHODEY *Holy Abandonment* (M.H. Gill, 1951)

Cistercian monk explains how to accept and embrace God's will. Reflects on prudence, accepting suffering joyfully, how to live holy abandonment, etc., offering examples from monastic life, many of which can be applied to the life of ordinary Christians in the world.

Mauro LEONARDI *Mezz'ora di orazione*

A guide to mental prayer. Stresses that personal dialogue with God is the source of inner peace. Useful for people who want to begin or improve their interior life.

Camilo LÓPEZ PARDO *El Avemaría*

Commentary on the Hail Mary, with a simple, personal style that fosters meditation. Includes short doctrinal reflections with quotations from classical authors.

Camilo LÓPEZ PARDO *Sobre la Vida y la Muerte*

Summary of the Church's teaching about the next life presented with optimism and theological depth. With many practical suggestions on sanctifying daily life. The author frequently quotes St. Josemaría.

Juan Luis LORDA *Moral. El Arte de Vivir*

A summary of Christian moral teaching written for university students. Contains many useful examples and analogies. Helpful for apostolate with people with little faith or who don't practice their faith.

Juan Luis LORDA *Para Ser Cristiano*

Advice on how to grow in human and Christian virtues, including presence of God, fortitude, detachment, joy, etc. The second half considers ascetical topics and aspects of our Lord's life. Written in an attractive style. Intended mainly for university students.

Joseph LUCAS *Wir Kinder Gottes*

Religious missionary describes the greatness of divine filiation and its consequences: imitating Christ, childlike conversation with God, freedom, work, accepting suffering and death, apostolate, etc. Published in Spanish in 1963 as *Nosotros, hijos de Dios*.

Sor LUCIA *Fatima in Lucia's Own Words: Sister Lucia's Memoirs* (Postulation, 1976)

Recollections of the Fatima apparitions, as requested by ecclesiastical authorities. Written in a simple and spontaneous style fostering devotion to our Lady.

Sor LUCIA *Apelos da Mensagem de Fátima*

A summary of the principal “calls” of our Lady to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia: to faith, worship, sacrifice, intimacy with the Trinity, the sanctity of the family, Christian perfection.... Also contains the childhood memories of the three shepherds and a simple but deep catechesis on the Ten Commandments and the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. For everyone.

Francisco LUNA      *La Misa*

Brief and simple booklet on the Mass. Part one is an introduction on sin, Calvary, the altar, and what it means to participate in the Mass. Part two explains the meaning of the rites and prayers. Part three is on the Sunday obligation, how to prepare for Mass and give thanks afterwards. Written with piety.

MACHADO, Raul      *Historia Sagrada. Adaptación del libro de J. Ecker: Biblia de las escuelas, 1958*

Overview of the Old and New Testament for schoolchildren. Contains explanatory notes and summaries to facilitate understanding of the sacred text, especially for those with little cultural and religious formation.

José Pedro MANGLANO CASTELLARY      *El libro de la confesión. El enigma de la culpa*

An effective introduction to the central theological and ascetical aspects of the sacrament of Confession. It makes reference to well-known characters in literature to discuss the concepts of repentance, guilt, forgiveness, sanctifying grace.... Recommended for catechesis with young people, and also for spiritual reading for adults and adolescents.

José Pedro MANGLANO CASTELLARY      *El libro de la Misa. Los secretos de un misterio*

An effective guide to living the Mass better. Through pictures and characters drawn from literature, the author reviews the principal themes of the liturgy in an attractive way, in keeping with the dignity and depth that the topic requires. Useful for giving classes to young people, as well as for spiritual reading.

Raimondo MARCHIORO      *La confesión sacramental*

A simple and practical book on the sacrament of Penance, with an appendix for priests and another on Indulgences. Resolves difficulties often faced by the faithful in receiving the Sacrament (questions about the material and moral integrity of the confession, *ex opere operato* efficacy of the absolution, etc.). Encourages frequent confession. Recommended for all.

Cardinal Josef MINDSZENTY      *The Mother* (Radio Replies Press, 1949)

Describes the ideal of motherhood that we find in Scripture, realized fully in Mary, Mother of God and our Mother. Strongly defends the indispensable role of a woman, as wife and mother, in the family. Although written in the 1940's, it has great relevance for today's society.

Jorge MIRAS      *Christ's Faithful in the World: The Secular Character of the Laity* (Librairie Wilson & Lafleur Limitee, 2008)

The author, a professor of Canon Law at the University of Navarre, discusses the vocational meaning of Christian life in the world. Shows in a practical way how to harmonize the requirements and duties of family, professional, social and political life with the universal call to holiness.

José MORALES      *Fidelidad*

Discusses the human and supernatural dimensions of this virtue, and how to become more loyal in one's commitments to our Lord. Especially suited to people with some experience in the interior struggle.

Luigi MORESCO      *La Madonna di Fatima*

A simple narration of the apparitions in Fatima and the life of the three shepherds that fosters prayer, penance and conversion.

Franz M. MOSCHNER *Christian Prayer* (Herder, 1962)

Contains practical suggestions for deepening one's prayer life. Stresses personal effort and struggle, responding to God's grace, and rejecting quietism. For people with some formation.

Franz M. MOSCHNER *The Kingdom of Heaven in Parables* (Herder, 1960)

Collection of various articles written to console those suffering the consequences of World War II, with guidelines for reflecting on the "Kingdom of Heaven." A bit dry, but also quite formative. For people with a good cultural level.

Franz M. MOSCHNER *Rosa Mystica*

Doctrinal and affective reflections on the Litany of Loretto's invocations, one by one. Good for growing in doctrinal piety in praying the Rosary.

Juan MOYA *Imitar a María. Novena a la Inmaculada*

Meditation and prayer topics for each day of the Novena to the Immaculate Conception, centered on our Lady's love for us, her vocation, the virtue of holy purity, Confession, Christian optimism, the call to holiness, etc. Contains frequent quotes from the Liturgy and John Paul II. The author challenges the reader to overcome passivity. Written in a simple style, directed to students.

NOUWEN, Henri J.M. *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* (Image-Doubleday, 1994)

Meditations on the parable of the prodigal son, based on Rembrandt's famous painting.

Fernando OCÁRIZ *Amor a Dios, Amor a los Hombres*

A brief work on the twofold precept of charity, addressing errors that separate love of neighbor from love of God (liberation theology, seeing the Church's mission as focused on this world, etc.). Helps the reader to appreciate unity of life, showing the essential connection between the theological virtues and a generous spirit of service to neighbor. Rich in doctrine and easy to read. Very useful for all.

José ORLANDIS *El espíritu de verdad*

An essay published in 1968 on our knowledge of the truth and its moral consequences. Confronts skepticism and relativism and defends the Christian faith, the objectivity of our knowledge of external reality, the possibility of communicating truth to others, the harm done by lying, and the moral greatness of authenticity and sincerity in word and conduct. For those with adequate culture.

José ORLANDIS *The Christian in the World* (Scepter, 1960)

Starts with an overview of contemporary culture and then encourages the reader—with a positive, energetic and apostolic outlook—to carry out the Christian mission. Requires some cultural formation.

José ORLANDIS *Y vosotros, ¿quién decís que soy yo?* A good compendium of how the first Christians lived.

Antonio OROZCO *Mirar a María*

Meditations on the Blessed Virgin Mary, written with insight and devotion.

Antonio OROZCO *Resurrección*

Meditations on various Gospel scenes, in dialogue with Christ: the Annunciation, Bethany, the Cenacle, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the second miraculous catch

of fish, the Ascension, etc. This simply written book helps the reader to seek friendship and intimacy with Christ.

Pius PARSCH *The Liturgy of the Mass* (Herder, 1936)

A simple and brief explanation of the Mass. Summarizes the history of the liturgy right from the early Church and explains the meaning of each part of the Mass. Although published in the 1920s, it is still useful.

Fray Justo PEREZ DE URBEL *Vida de Cristo*

Life of Christ based on sound traditional exegesis, especially when discussing more difficult Gospel passages. At times quite poetic in style. Presents scenes of our Lord's life in a way that moves the reader to prayer and piety. Helps one to immerse oneself in the Gospels and to get to know Christ's Sacred Humanity. Useful for everyone.

José Miguel PERO-SANZ *El símbolo Atanasiano*

Commentary on the Athanasian Creed that helps the reader to pray. Draws out many practical consequences: friendship with each of the three divine Persons, unity of life, valuing doctrinal formation, sanctifying ordinary life, Marian devotion, the virtue of hope, etc.

José Miguel PERO-SANZ *La hora sexta*

Meditations on Christian hope, helping the reader to overcome any discouragement and spiritual lethargy. Scripture passages on Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, and Barnabas are used to show the power of God's grace, with emphasis on the supernatural fruitfulness of ordinary life.

José Miguel PERO-SANZ *Sobre roca*

The author shows how Christian life needs to rest upon the rock of divine filiation in Christ, and draws out practical consequences.

Bonaventure PERQUIN *Abba Father: Deepening Our Relationship With God the Father* (Scepter)

Dominican author writes about divine filiation and its consequences for Christian life. Many good insights and explanations based on Scripture and theology. Very useful for one's spiritual life. The last two chapters focus on aspects proper to a religious spirituality. Clear, but requires doctrinal formation.

Joseph-Marie PERRIN *Le Mystère de la charité*

On God's love for us as shown in the Incarnation, the Eucharist, Christ's death on the Cross, the Church. The last chapter is on our Lady. Both simple and deep. Fosters the determination to correspond to God's love.

Joseph-Marie PERRIN *The Gospel of Joy* (Blackfriars, 1957)

After discussing joy in this life, the author comments on each of the beatitudes. Concludes with advice for combatting sadness, as part of the ascetical struggle. For persons with some cultural formation.

Joseph-Marie PERRIN *Mary, the Mother of Christ and of Christians* (Alba House, 1978)

Covers the following topics: 1. Marian life. 2. Mary's privileges. 3. Mary's heart. 4. Mary our Mother. 5. Appendices on the Rosary and on St. Joseph.

Michel-Marie PHILIPON *Les dons du Saint-Esprit*

Theological treatise on the Paraclete's sanctifying action that follows St. Thomas's explanation. Covers the Holy Spirit's mission, and what this involves: grace, the virtues, the gifts, the fruits. An academic text, it may be a bit dry for some. Requires good theological formation.

- Michel-Marie PHILIPON      *The Sacraments in Christian Life* (Newman Press, 1954)  
 On the fruit brought about by the sacraments in the spiritual life. Helps the reader to understand and value these means of sanctification. Requires good theological formation.
- Jacques PHILIPPE      *In the School of the Holy Spirit* (Scepter, 2007)  
 Describes how the Holy Spirit acts in the soul illuminating the intellect and strengthening the heart. Shows in practice how to recognize and receive the Holy Spirit's action, in order to advance in holiness. Useful for all.
- Jacques PHILIPPE      *Called to Life* (Scepter, 2009)  
 Christian life seen as the response to God's ongoing calls: in prayer, through the Gospels, in setbacks, in sickness, or in any of the circumstances of life. Happiness is achieved not through controlling events, but by listening to and following God's call in our own life.
- Jacques PHILIPPE      *Time for God* (Scepter, 2008)  
 Subtitled "A Guide to Prayer Life," the book is divided into five sections: I. Prayer is not a technique but a grace; II. Using the time of prayer well; III. Growth in prayer life; IV. Physical conditions for prayer, and V. Some methods of prayer. Offers simple tips and advice for beginners, helping them to persevere in prayer and overcome any doubts or difficulties. Written with great clarity and energy, with common and supernatural sense.
- Jacques PHILIPPE      *Interior Freedom* (Scepter, 2007)  
 Deals mainly with holy abandonment. Explains that God loves us not for any good we can do or for our perseverance and loyalty, but *quoniam Bonus*, because He is good. Also devotes some pages to divine filiation, loving the Cross, fraternity, mutual love and forgiveness. The last fifty pages discuss freedom in living the three theological virtues. Useful for all.
- Jacques PHILIPPE      *Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart* (Alba House, 2002)  
 Identifies two fundamental threats to interior peace: not relying sufficiently on divine providence and the fear of suffering. Discusses, in light of the Gospel, how to overcome any obstacles to interior serenity. Concludes with a selection of texts from various spiritual writers: Juan de Bonilla, St. Francisco de Sales, St. Teresa of Jesus, Mary of the Incarnation, François-Marie-Jacod Libermann, St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Josemaría Escrivá.
- José María PICH      *Christ on Earth* (Sinag-Tala)  
 In a simple and warm style, the author presents Christ's Sacred Humanity as a model for ordinary Christians, showing how a relationship with God does not estrange us from professional, family, or social duties but rather leads to embracing them fully. Grounded on divine filiation in Christ, it speaks about naturalness, the dignity of work, understanding others, the meaning of suffering, etc. For everyone.
- José María PICH      *La sal de la tierra*  
 On the need to base apostolate on a solid interior life. Stresses the apostolic possibilities found in daily life and the zeal to be an apostle of apostles, following St. Josemaría's teachings. Brief and clear.
- Josef PIEPER      *The Principal Virtues: Faith, Hope, Love, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance* —*Faith, Hope, Love* (Ignatius Press, 1997)—*On Hope* (Ignatius Press, 1986)—*About Love* (Franciscan Press, 1974) —*The Four Cardinal Virtues* (Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 1990)—*Fortitude* (Ignatius Press)—*Fortitude and Temperance* (Pantheon Books,

1954)—*Justice* (Faber and Faber, 1957; Ignatius Press)—*Prudence* (Pantheon Books, 1959; Ignatius Press)—*Temperance* (Ignatius Press)

Found in both one volume or in separate books dealing with individual virtues. Presents a good explanation of the principal features of the theological and moral virtues, helping the reader discover the depth and coherence of Christian life. The author follows St. Thomas, although at times gives interpretations that differ from other good Thomists. Very useful for those with adequate theological and philosophical formation.

Josef PIEPER; Heinrich RASKOP      *What Catholics Believe: A Primer of the Catholic Faith* (Franciscan Press, 1982)

Explanation of Christian doctrine, for people with some cultural formation. Covers the Creed; Christian life and the Sacraments; the liturgical year; the theological and cardinal virtues; Sacred Scripture; and Church history. Although written before Vatican II, it continues being useful.

Johannes PINSK      *Toward the Center of Christian Living: A Liturgical Approach* (Herder & Herder, 1961)

Collection of articles on the danger of a superficial Christian life when it is not based on a personal relationship with Christ. Uses specialized language that requires good cultural formation.

Álvaro del PORTILLO Y DIEZ DE SOLLANO *On Priesthood* (Scepter 1974)

Filled with insights into the mystery of the priesthood. Serenely penetrating study of issues about priestly life and ministry in the light of *Presbyterorum Ordinis* by one of the most knowledgeable voices in expounding and developing the teaching of Vatican II.

Domingo RAMOS-LISSON      *El testimonio de los primeros cristianos*

A thematic, rather than biographical or chronological description of the early Christians that highlights their zeal for holiness and apostolate, naturalness in ordinary life, and how they transformed society. Helps one to better grasp many of St. Josemaría's teachings. Written clearly and simply.

Domingo RAMOS-LISSON      *Espiritualidad de los primeros cristianos. Textos escogidos*

A collection of 26 ante-Nicene texts (written before 325) on Christian life from Ignatius of Antioch, Athenagoras, Irenaeus of Lyon, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Origen, etc. Each text has a helpful introduction. Very useful.

Gonzalo REDONDO      *Razón de la esperanza*

Shows how to practice the theological virtue of hope in various situations of ordinary life, especially in periods of discouragement. An energetic and attractive style.

Pie REGAMEY *La Croix du Christ et celle du Chrétien*

Dominican author encourages the reader to accept suffering and setbacks not with "resignation" but with love for Christ's Cross.

Pie REGAMEY *Les plus beaux textes sur la Vierge Marie*

Selection of texts on our Lady up to the 14th century, with a comment on each one. Filled with piety and doctrine.

Pius-Aimone REGGIO *Vergiss die Freude nicht*

A brief essay on joy that explains with simplicity the meaning of Christian hope and grace. Published by Rialp in Spanish under the title "Por que la alegría?"

Alexis RIAUD *The Holy Spirit Acting in Our Souls* (Sinag-Tala)

Briefly explains each gift and fruit of the Holy Spirit following St. Thomas. A clear and attractive style. Useful for drawing closer to the Paraclete.

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ *Fe y vida de fe*

Conferences given to a university audience during the novena to the Immaculate Conception. Considers the principal topics of fundamental theology in a clear and direct way, starting with revelation and faith. Also draws practical consequences for Christian life.

Peter T. ROHRBACH *Conversation with Christ* (TAN Books, 1994)

Simple book on how to do mental prayer, mostly based on St. Teresa of Avila.

Michael SCHMAUS *On the Essence of Christianity* (Scepter, 1966, 1997) These lively and convincing conferences for theology students in Munich summarize the author's well-known, multi-volume work, *Dogmatic Theology*. On the historical figure of Jesus, revelation of the Trinity, Christianity and the world, the nature of the Church, etc. For those with good theological formation. Recent editions of this book are not reliable.

Josef SELLMAIR *Priests in the World* (Catholic Book Club, 1953)

Advice for secular priests on how to sanctify their priestly ministry.

Frank J. SHEED *A Map of Life* (Ignatius Press, 1994)

A simple and clear presentation of our journey towards God, covering creation, original sin, the Incarnation and Redemption, the Church, freedom, sin, vocation, and the last things. Contains many good examples.

Frank J. SHEED *Theology for Beginners* (Sheed & Ward, 1958; Servant Books; Our Sunday Visitor)

This simple explanation of Christian doctrine (Creed, commandments, morality) is written in a warm and easy-to-read style.

Frank J. SHEED *To Know Christ Jesus* (Ignatius Press, 1992)

Brief and clear book about our Lord's life presented with realistic details. Especially recommended for people who find reading a chore.

Fulton J. SHEEN *Three to Get Married* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

On human love, the dignity of sexuality, marriage, the virtue of chastity, procreation, paternity, maternity, education of children, etc. Written in 1953, it remains quite useful.

Fulton J. SHEEN *Victory over Vice* (Sophia Institute Press, 2004)

Uses Christ's last words on the Cross to speak about the seven capital sins. Good for young people.

José Luis SORIA *Is Purity Possible?* (Sinag-Tala)

Instills a positive sense of the virtue of chastity, and shows how to explain it to others. Very useful.

Federico SUÁREZ *The Afterlife* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter)

Commentary on several Gospel parables (the wise and foolish virgins, those invited to a banquet, etc.) directed to university students. Useful for confronting common obstacles in Christian life.

Federico SUÁREZ *About Being a Priest* (Four Courts Press, Scepter; Lumen Christi Press, 1979)

On the priestly mission, closely following the Second Vatican Council Decree, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, and St. Josemaría's teachings.

Federico SUÁREZ *The Sacrifice of the Altar* (Scepter, 1990)

Explains the meaning and rites of the Holy Mass. Written after the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, it comments in detail on Eucharistic Prayers I

and IV, explains the sacrificial character of the Mass, and shows how to prepare fruitfully for the Mass. Clear and easy-to-read.

Federico SUÁREZ *Joseph of Nazareth* (Scepter)

The author writes about St. Joseph with great affection, commenting on the Gospel scenes and closely following St. Josemaría's teachings. Discusses sanctifying work, obedience, prudence, intimacy with our Lord, etc. Clear and easy-to-read.

Federico SUÁREZ *La Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo*

Reflections on our Lord's Passion written with piety and doctrine. Helpful for personal meditation, and for fostering resolutions to be generous in one's Christian life.

Federico SUÁREZ *La paz os dejo*

Collection of 12 meditations for university students on faith, obedience to Church teachings, contrition for sins, temperance and austerity, etc.

Federico SUÁREZ *The Narrow Gate* (Scepter)

Meditations for young people urging them to be coherent Christians and witnesses to their faith, going against the current. Many good suggestions for the apostolate.

Federico SUÁREZ *The Vine and the Branches* (Four Courts Press)

Meditations on various topics: the need for confession, the indissolubility of marriage, the universality of the Redemption and personal salvation, etc.

Federico SUÁREZ *Mary of Nazareth* (Scepter)

Reflections on Mary's life, stressing complete dedication to God's will and holiness in ordinary life. Very useful for all.

Ramón TABOADA *La perseverancia*

Clear presentation of how to overcome obstacles and grow in the virtue of perseverance. Includes many quotes from St. Josemaría. Easy-to-read and useful for all.

Jean-Pierre TORRELL *Saint Thomas Aquinas: vol. 1 The Person and his Work* (Catholic University of America Press, 2005); *vol. 2 Spiritual Master* (2003)

A good overview of St. Thomas' theological teaching, highlighting its implications for the spiritual life. Since the content is somewhat dense, the reader should possess a sound philosophical and theological formation, without needing to be a specialist. Very helpful in showing how theological studies can be a topic of meditation and can enrich the interior life.

Tihamer TOTH *The Christian Family* (Herder, 1942)

A clear and well organized book preparing young people for marriage that engages the reader directly. Many brief and effective comparisons. Although the language is a bit antiquated, its topics and substance remain up-to-date.

Lorenzo TOUS *San José de Calasanz, el santo de los niños*

Brief biography (the Spanish version is abridged from the Italian) emphasizing the action of divine Providence in the saint's life from infancy. The second half deals with his life "dedicated to teaching piety and the humanities." It concludes with the persecutions he endured with heroic fortitude and humility. Quite moving and easy-to-read. Good for all readers.

Leo J. TRESE *The Holy Spirit and His Work* (Confraternity Publications, 1955)

A simple work that focuses on the Holy Spirit's action in the soul through the sacraments. Good for all.

- Leo J. TRESE *Everyman's Road to Heaven* (Fides Publishers; Dome book, 1965)  
 Enjoyable book, written with common and supernatural sense, on the principal topics of Christian asceticism: prayer, mortification, devotions, frequenting the Sacraments, dedication, apostolate, etc.
- Leo J. TRESE, *More than many sparrows* in *A Trese Trilogy* (Sinag-Tala)  
 On the ups and downs of daily family life, and how to confront them with a Christian spirit and optimism. Very well written, filled with common sense and practical experience. Good for everyone.
- Leo J. TRESE *The Faith Explained* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter)  
 Extensive synthesis of Christian doctrine that follows the common catechetical order: Creed, Commandments, Sacraments. An enjoyable style, with many examples and anecdotes. Despite its size (580 pages in English), it is good for those who don't have a habit of reading. Very useful for acquiring a basic formation
- Leo J. TRESE *Vessel of Clay* (Sheed & Ward, 1950)  
 Describes a typical day in the life of a parish priest. Attractively written, it helps priests to sanctify their work, teaching little details of refinement in dealing with our Lord and with the faithful.
- Leo J. TRESE *Wisdom Shall Enter* in *A Trese Trilogy* (Sinag-Tala)  
 A concise and positive texts of apologetics that seeks to resolve the most common objections to the faith, and to deepen the reader's knowledge of the Christian mysteries: the existence of God, religion, the Church, etc. Easy-to-read.
- François TROCHU *The Cure d' Ars* (Sinag-Tala; TAN Books)  
 Extensive biography (669 pages in the abridged English version) with many references to the canonization process and the times in which he lived. Emphasizes the saint's ascetical struggle to conquer imperfections and weaknesses. The reader should keep in mind that the way he lived certain virtues is not suited to a person seeking sanctity in the middle of the world.
- François TROCHU *St. Bernadette Soubirous: 1844-1879* (TAN Books, 1985) Biography of the saint that focuses more on the external events in her life than on her spiritual life. Fosters devotion to our Lady.
- Jesús URTEAGA *I Shall Begin Now!* (Sinag-Tala)  
 Describes the struggle to achieve holiness with the help of grace, highlighting its positive elements (sporting spirit, optimism...). Topics covered include conversion, human respects in the apostolate, divine filiation and presence of God, the call to holiness and generosity in one's dedication, unity of life, heroism in little things, Holy Mass, perseverance in prayer. Contains encouraging anecdotes to face the difficulties that often occur at the beginning of one's dedication to God. Useful for all.
- Jesús URTEAGA *God and Children* (Sinag-Tala, Scepter)  
 Addressed mainly to parents. The first part considers their responsibility and generosity in having children; the second part discusses educating children in the principal virtues. Indirectly it also provides advice for children, teaching them to put God's will ahead of everything else. Clear and practical, with a very encouraging message.
- Jesús URTEAGA *Saints in the World: The Adventure of Christian Life* (Scepter, 1997; formerly *Man the Saint*, Scepter, 1959)  
 Energetic exhortation to view human perfection as an integral part of Christian life, in the image of Christ. Stresses the need to struggle—out of love for God—to acquire human virtues. Highlights loyalty, hard work, courage, sincerity, joy, generosity,

apostolate, and unity of life, with forceful words against lukewarmness, passivity, and lack of character. Written in 1955, it reflects St. Josemaría's preaching.

Jesús URTEAGA *The Defects of the Saints* (Sinag-Tala)

Series of articles stressing that all of the saints have had to struggle against their defects. Fosters the self-knowledge needed to fight against one's own defects. Very apostolic in tone, with many examples from Scripture and the lives of the saints. Very useful.

Francisca Javiera del VALLE *About the Holy Spirit* (Scepter)

Written to foster devotion to the Holy Spirit. Each of the ten-days from the Ascension to Pentecost has a daily reflection, prayer, and resolution. Very simple yet deep. Useful for everybody.

Eugène VANDEUR *Retraite*

Retreat meditations focusing on the Holy Mass as the summit towards which all Christian life is directed. An extensive theological work that requires cultural formation.

Gerald VANN *The Divine Pity* (Scepter)

Dominican teacher uses the beatitudes to clarify some mysteries of the Christian faith, connecting Baptism with "blessed are the poor," Confirmation with "blessed are the meek," the Eucharist with "blessed are those who hunger and thirst," etc.

Bernardo de VASCONCELOS *Your Mass* (Scepter, 1961)

Short, clear book on the value of the Mass, helping the reader to make the Mass the center of one's interior life, without using this expression. Written with piety. Good for everyone.

Dietrich von HILDEBRAND *Transformation in Christ: On the Christian Attitude* (Ignatius Press, 2001)

Analyzes the fruit of the action of grace in the soul. Provides a deep foundation for Christian asceticism and opens broad and positive horizons, with many Scripture quotes and brief testimonies from great saints. Useful for those with solid intellectual formation.

William Th. WALSH *Our Lady of Fatima* (Image, 1954)

Recounts the apparitions at Fatima to the three young shepherds, with interesting information about the social, political and cultural context in which they lived. Helps the reader to grasp the meaning of the Marian message.

William Th. WALSH *St. Peter the Apostle* (Scepter)

Simple and clear biography that draws on the New Testament, Tradition and Christian archeology. Good ascetical and doctrinal points. Requires some cultural formation.

William Th. WALSH *St. Teresa of Avila* (Bruce Publishing Company, 1945)

Both a biography of the saint and a history of the Carmelite reform that she carried out. Easy-to-read and accessible to all, with many written testimonies from the saint that help the reader to appreciate her life of prayer and mortification. Requires some formation to evaluate the author's description of the difference between "discalced" and "non-discalced" Carmelites.

Franz Michael WILLAM *The Life of Jesus Christ* (Herder Book Co., 1949)

Attractively written account of Christ's life that places it in the context of the Jewish culture and society of his times. The short chapters follow a chronological order. A work of great apologetical value that contains brief pious considerations and a description of our Lord imbued with faith and love.

Franz Michael WILLAM *Mary, the Mother of Jesus* (Scepter)

Places our Lady's life in its historical and geographical context, showing her full correspondence to grace and complete self-giving to God. Of great value: simple, pious, and theologically rigorous. Very useful for increasing devotion to Mary.

Cardinal Stefan WYSZYNSKI *Working Your Way to Heaven* ( Sophia Institute Press, 1998); also entitled: *All You Who Labor* (1995)

Essay on the role of work in Christian life and in the development of culture, with a focus that is compatible with the quest for holiness in the middle of the world. Requires some cultural formation.

### **c) On St. Josemaría and Opus Dei**

Edited Collections *Testimonies to a Man of God: Blessed Josemaría Escrivá*, vol. 1 and 2 (Scepter, 1992) 28 testimonials for his cause of beatification from people (mostly ecclesiastical authorities) who knew St. Josemaría between 1930 and 1950, previously published in 9 booklets. Contains many anecdotes that highlight St. Josemaría's holy life and heroic virtues. Very useful.

Edited Collections *Mons. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer y el Opus Dei* (1982)

Begins with a previously unpublished text from St. Josemaría and an interview with Don. Alvaro. Then come articles by various authors—theologians, canonists, historians, etc.—on the principal aspects of St. Josemaría's teachings: sanctification of work, divine filiation, priestly soul, unity of life, the universal call to holiness and apostolate, freedom, etc. Lucas Mateo Seco concludes the work with an annotated bibliography. Of great interest.

Javier ABAD *La Sociedad Sacerdotal de la Santa Cruz*

An explanation of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, founded by St. Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer to help secular priests attain sanctity in their ministry through the spirit of Opus Dei.

Antonio ARANDA *El bullir de la sangre de Cristo. Estudio sobre el cristocentrismo del Beato Josemaría Escrivá*

Discusses aspects of the Christocentric spirit of Opus Dei's founder, stressing the sanctifying value of Jesus' earthly existence, particularly his years of hidden life, inseparable from his being the incarnate Son of God and his redemptive mission.

Hugo De AZEVEDO *Uma luz no mundo*

The first biography of St. Josemaría in Portuguese, written prior to his beatification. It follows a strict chronological order, focusing particularly on St. Josemaría's trips to Brazil and Portugal. Contains material from the *Articles of the Postulator* (1981) prepared for the saint's cause of beatification.

Peter BERGLAR *Opus Dei: Life and Work of its Founder Josemaría Escrivá* (Scepter)

One of the first biographies of St. Josemaría. The author, a German history professor, stresses the significance of St. Josemaría in contemporary history and culture. More suitable for people with good general culture.

Salvador BERNAL *A Profile of the Founder of Opus Dei, Msgr. Josemaría Escrivá* (Scepter, 1976)

The first biography of St. Josemaría, written just after his death. Still of value, although it has less source material than later biographies.

Salvador BERNAL *Profile of Alvaro del Portillo* (Scepter)

More a reflection on Don Alvaro's life based on the author's own personal notes and memories than a biography. It focuses on his faithfulness to St. Josemaría, with many stories showing how Don Alvaro lived the Christian virtues.

Flavio CAPUCCI *Favors of Saint Josemaría Escrivá* (Scepter, 2004) The postulator of St. Josemaría Escrivá's cause of canonization shares some 200 real stories of favors and cures due to his intercession.

Flavio CAPUCCI *Cures: Through the Intercession of Saint Josemaría Escrivá* (Scepter, 2001)

Gives the background and medical details of 18 extraordinary cures presented in the process of canonization for Opus Dei's founder. The author introduces each miracle with a Gospel cure related to it, and draws consequences for the spiritual life. Of perennial value; useful for all.

José María CASCIARO *Vale la pena. Tres años cerca del Fundador del Opus Dei: 1939-1942*

Historical testimony on the founder of Opus Dei in the years after the Spanish civil war. A simple book, for everyone.

Pedro CASCIARO *Dream and your Dreams will Fall Short* (Scepter, 1997)

Testimony written with warmth and charm, and with special historical value, about the author's experience in Opus Dei and encounters with St. Josemaría, especially from 1935 to 1946. In a natural way he shows how Opus Dei's spirit was lived in the early years: the vocation of complete self-giving to God, lay mentality, apostolic zeal, spirit of poverty, the importance of work done well, mortification and penance, cheerfulness, St. Josemaría's fatherly zeal, etc.. Very useful for all.

José Miguel CEJAS *José María Somoano. En los comienzos de la fundación del Opus Dei*

Biography of a diocesan priest in Madrid, a friend of St. Josemaría in the mid-30s, who was martyred in the Spanish religious persecution. Provides a good testimony to the life of St. Josemaría and his first followers. Carefully researched, the book gives solid historical background without losing its simplicity. Recommended for all.

José Miguel CEJAS *La paz y la alegría. María Ignacia García Escobar (1896-1933)*

A simple book aimed at helping everyone understand the sanctification of suffering, devotion to the Eucharist, and spiritual childhood. The book contains at the end most of María Ignacia's writings. A good description of the historical context of her era.

José Miguel CEJAS *Montse Grases: La Alegría de la Entrega*

Describes how Montse heroically accepted illness and suffering in a simple and natural way, embracing it out of love for God and souls, and faithfully living the spirit of the Work to the last moment.

José Miguel CEJAS *Life of Blessed Josemaría* (Sinag-Tala)

A short, simple profile of St. Josemaría.

José Luis COFIÑO; José Miguel CEJAS *Ernesto Cofiño. Perfil de un hombre del Opus Dei*

Account of Ernesto Cofiño life, told by his son using 17 letters. Helps the reader appreciate the human and supernatural character of this supernumerary of Opus Dei, considered the father of Guatemalan pediatrics.

John COVERDALE *Uncommon Faith: The Early Years of Opus Dei, 1928-1943* (Scepter, 2002)

Recounts the early history of Opus Dei up to 1943. Places St. Josemaría's life in the religious, political and social context of the times.

Federico DELCLAUX *Santa María en los Escritos del Beato Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer*

A simple, well-documented work on some of St. Josemaría's teachings on Mary. Divided into these sections: Mary, beloved daughter of God the Father; Mary, Mother of God the Son; Our Lady and the Holy Spirit; Mary leads us to friendship with the Blessed Trinity, Sanctifying our daily work and duties as our Lady did; Imitating our Lady and having recourse to her when suffering comes our way; Joy of being Mary's children.

Guillaume DERVILLE *Prier 15 jours avec Josémaría Escrivá*

Reflections on scenes from the Bible that foster prayer, with quotes from St. Josemaría. Stresses the union between life and prayer. Useful for everyone.

Michele DOLZ *Mia madre la Chiesa. Vita di san Josemaría Escrivá*

A brief life of St. Josemaría that focuses on Opus Dei's beginnings. Based mainly on Italian sources.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Eucaristía y vida cristiana*

Prelate of Opus Dei shows how the Eucharist can illumine and enliven a Christian's daily existence: work and rest, family life, apostolate, illness and pain.... His reflections arise from a deep faith and great love for the Eucharist, rooted in Scripture and Church Tradition, and permeated by the teachings of St. Josemaría. Useful for all.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Getsemaní. En oración con Jesucristo*

Seeks to help the reader to pray and to learn how to pray, focusing on Christ's hours of agony and prayer in the Garden of Olives. Christ's life of prayer is seen as teaching us how to deal with God the Father. The author puts his own prayer into words, alternating his reflections with direct invocations to the Savior. For everyone.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Itinerarios de vida cristiana*

"Children of God. That is what we are, as the Gospel proclaims, but unfortunately many people are unaware of it," are the first words from this book that presents St. Josemaría as an exceptional guide for Christian life.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Memoria del Beato Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer: entrevista con Salvador Bernal*

Personal memories of St. Josemaría from the years he spent alongside the saint from 1950 to 1975. A valuable testimony to his life and teachings.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Para servir a la Iglesia. Homilias sobre el sacerdocio*

The priesthood is seen as a "service" and a "participation in Christ's mission" in these twenty-four homilies on the figure of the priest.

Javier ECHEVARRÍA *Por Cristo, con Él y en Él*

Gathers eight texts on St. Josemaría in chronological order. Four deal specifically with the priesthood, as taught and lived by the founder of Opus Dei; the other four address in depth aspects of his life and teachings that are central to the call to holiness of all the faithful.

Mercedes EGUIBAR GALARZA *Guadalupe Ortiz de Landázuri. Trabajo, amistad y buen*

*humor* Biography of a woman member of Opus Dei with many details about the beginnings of the apostolic work in Mexico and the years she lived in Rome alongside St. Josemaría. With many specific suggestions on practicing virtues such as industriousness, understanding for others, love for the Cross, joy, and apostolic spirit. Useful for everyone.

Cornelio FABRO; Salvatore GAROFALO; M. Adelaida RASCHINI *Santi nel Mondo*

Three articles on St. Josemaría. Fabro's, the longest, is particularly good; he writes about the historical import of the saint's teachings and gives a deep analysis of some of their main points. Salvatore Garófalo, professor of Sacred Scripture and former Rector of the Urbanian University in Rome, stresses St. Josemaría's familiarity with Scripture

and the originality of his commentaries. Adelaida Raschini, professor of Anthropology, focuses on the description of the human virtues in *Furrow*. Fabro's article is of special interest for everyone.

Francisc FERNÁNDEZ CARVAJAL; Pedro BETETA *Children of God. The Life of Spiritual Childhood Preached by Blessed Josemaría Escrivá* (Scepter, 1998)

Employs theological insights from F. Ocáriz and I. Celaya's book, *Vivir como Hijos de Dios*, making them more accessible. Uses simple examples to show how divine filiation ought to influence daily life, in light of St. Josemaría's teachings.

Amadeo de FUENMAYOR; José Luis ILLANES; Valentín GÓMEZ IGLESIAS *The Canonical Path of Opus Dei. The History and Defense of a Charism* (Four Courts Press, Scepter, Midwest Theological Forum)

Rigorously documents the juridical path of Opus Dei from its founding in 1928 until established as a personal Prelature in 1982. Besides giving a deep explanation of the juridical configuration suited to the Work's nature, it shows St. Josemaría's heroism in defending—with charity, fortitude and prudence—the spirit God entrusted to him, and the generous prayer and mortification that was needed to obtain this divine gift. An appendix has the Statutes of the Prelature.

François GONDRAND *At God's Pace: Josemaría Escrivá Founder of Opus Dei*

Biography of St. Josemaría written in an attractive and straightforward style, readable by all.

Scott HAHN *Ordinary Work, Extraordinary Grace: My Spiritual Journey in Opus Dei* (Doubleday, 2006)

Offers readers a personal introduction to biblical theology and also to the spirit of Opus Dei, from the perspective of a married man. An attractive presentation of topics such as divine filiation, the sanctification of work and ordinary life, the apostolate, and secularity. Useful for all.

V. HUERTA SOLÁ *Alas para volar. San Josemaría maestro de oración*

The first part explains St Josemaría's teachings on prayer in *The Way, The Way of the Cross*, and in three homilies of *Friends of God*. Part two is an anthology of texts from St. Josemaría on the mysteries of the Rosary. Stresses that dialogue with God is closely tied to the readiness to love his will. A clear and convincing style, passing on what the author himself has lived.

José Luis ILLANES *The sanctification of work: aspects of the teaching of the founder of Opus Dei* (Scepter, 2003) *On the Theology of Work: Aspects of the Teaching of the Founder of Opus Dei* (Scepter, 1968)

A short book that explores how Christians down through the ages have viewed work, and the newness of the spirit of Opus Dei, which is seen as rooted in the Old and the New Testaments, in the lives of the early Christians and in the teachings of the Church Fathers. Contrasts the religious vocation and the lay vocation to sanctity in the middle of the world. With numerous quotes from St. Josemaría, it helps the reader to better appreciate the Work's historical importance, and fosters the desire to turn work into prayer, with God's help. Written in an attractive style with theological precision. Useful for all.

José Luis ILLANES *Mundo y santidad*

A collection of essays on spiritual theology focusing on St. Josemaría's teachings regarding holiness and the universal call to sanctity, the meaning and value of earthly and human realities in the struggle for sanctity, imitating and following Christ in ordinary life, filial piety, etc. Concludes with reflections on the Mass as the center of

the Christian life. Stresses the positive sense of Christian secularity and its relationship with the interior life. Requires some theological formation.

Lázaro LINARES *Antes, más y mejor: Un relato de mi vida en el Opus Dei*

Autobiographical account by a member of Opus Dei who devoted much of his life to educational endeavors, especially as the director of the Tajamar School in Madrid.

Lucas Francisco MATEO-SECO; Rafael RODRÍGUEZ-OCAÑA *Sacerdotes en el Opus Dei*

Explains the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, outlining its theological and juridical elements and showing how it helps diocesan priests seek holiness in and through their pastoral ministry. Published in 1994.

Fernando OCÁRIZ; Ignacio de CELAYA *Vivir como Hijos de Dios: Estudios sobre el Beato Josemaría Escrivá*

Collection of articles on St. Josemaría's teachings regarding divine filiation and unity of life. A clear, deep and well-structured book, which can be helpful to all.

José ORLANDIS *Años de juventud en el Opus Dei*

Testimony recounting the author's encounters with St. Josemaría in the years 1939-42. Contains many anecdotes regarding St. Josemaría and the virtues he lived. Of particular historical value for a picture of Opus Dei in the years immediately following the Spanish Civil War.

José ORLANDIS *Mis Recuerdos. Primeros tiempos del Opus Dei en Roma*

Relates his personal memories of early 1945 when he accompanied Alvaro del Portillo during his first stay in Rome, and later on, his harrowing trip with St. Josemaría to Rome on the J.J. Sister. Gives many details about Vladimir Vince, the first Croatian in Opus Dei. An impressive testimony to St. Josemaría's fortitude and Don Alvaro's fidelity. Written in an attractive style. Useful for everyone

Enrique PÉLACH *Abancay. Un obispo en los Andes peruanos*

Autobiography by Bishop Pélach, the first member of the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross. Expresses his deep gratitude to St. Josemaría, who always spurred him to seek God in his life as a priest and bishop, and also his gratitude for the human and spiritual help provided by the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross. Useful for everyone, especially priests.

José Miguel PERO-SANZ *Isidoro Zorzano Ledesma: Ingeniero industrial (Buenos Aires, 1902-Madrid, 1943)*

Describes the holy life of one of the first members of Opus Dei, who died in 1943. Stresses his fidelity to the spirit of the Work, filiation to our Founder, apostolic zeal, spirit of sacrifice, and professional competence. Helps one understand better the vocation to the Work, as a total self-giving to God.

Francisco PONZ PIEDRAFITA *Mi encuentro con el Fundador del Opus Dei. Madrid, 1939-1944*

Testimony focused on the period 1939-1944, when the author met and lived alongside St. Josemaría in Madrid.

Álvaro del PORTILLO; Cesare CAVALLERI *Immersed in God: Blessed Josemaría Escrivá, Founder of Opus Dei as Seen by his Successor, Bishop Alvaro Del Portillo*

Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, St. Josemaría's closest aide and successor, gives an extensive interview about the personality of the founder, sharing intimate memories and anecdotes. Useful for all.

Federico REQUENA; Javier SESE *Fuentes para la historia del Opus Dei*

An anthology of texts and documents, some previously unpublished, from those most immediately connected with Opus Dei's origin and development, presented in a

chronological and historical manner. Very useful for helping the reader better understand the spirit of Opus Dei.

Antonio RODRÍGUEZ PEDRAZUELA *Un mar sin orillas. El trabajo del Opus Dei en Centroamérica*

Description of the beginning of the Work in Central America, with the author's personal memories of his early years in Opus Dei. For all.

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ *Camino. Edición crítico-histórica*  
Historical-critical edition of St. Josemaría's book.

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ *Vocación, trabajo, contemplación*

Collection of studies on topics mentioned in the title, in the light of the teachings of St. Josemaría and the Second Vatican Council. Requires good theological formation.

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ; José Luis ILLANES; Fernando OCÁRIZ; *Opus Dei in the Church: A Theological Reflection on the Spirit and Apostolate of Opus Dei* (Four Courts Press; Scepter, 1994)

With a prologue by Bishop Alvaro del Portillo. Part one, by Pedro Rodríguez, is a theological explanation of the Prelature; part two, by Fernando Ocariz, is on the vocation to Opus Dei; part three, by Jose Luis Illanes, is on the spirit of the Work. A very useful book, but requires some theological formation.

Ana SASTRE *Tiempo de caminar*

A lively and simple biography of St. Josemaría published before his beatification. Moving reflections on St. Josemaría's joyful generosity and great heart as Father, with a special interest in things related to the development of the apostolic work of the women of Opus Dei.

Rafael SERRANO *Así le vieron. Testimonios sobre Mons. Escrivá de Balaguer*

Testimonies, principally by ecclesiastical authorities, on St. Josemaría's holy life. Of great historical value.

José Luis SORIA *Maestro de buen humor*

Author's testimony on St. Josemaría, with whom he lived and worked for twenty years.

Dominique Le TOURNEAU *What is Opus Dei?* (Scepter)

A clear and brief explanation of the juridical nature of the Prelature and of the spirit of Opus Dei.

Pilar URBANO *El hombre de Villa Tevere*

Strives to give a portrait of St. Josemaría's personality, focusing on the years he spent in Rome. Contains many interesting events and anecdotes from his life. Written in a lively, journalistic style.

Andrés VÁZQUEZ DE PRADA *The Founder of Opus Dei, I: The Early Years* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Three-volume biography of St. Josemaría—the most complete and well documented—based on material gathered for the canonization. Volume I covers the period from his birth in 1902 until 1936. The author had access to his *Intimate Notes*, letters and other primary sources. An essential work for knowing in-depth St. Josemaría's life and spiritual journey.

Andrés VÁZQUEZ DE PRADA *The Founder of Opus Dei, II: God and Daring* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Volume II covers the period from 1936 to 1946, beginning with the founder's life during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The four chapters on the years after the war

before he moved to Rome in 1946 focus on Opus Dei's development and expansion in Spain, using direct testimonies from people who lived alongside the founder during this period.

Andrés VÁZQUEZ DE PRADA *The Founder of Opus Dei, III: The Divine Ways on Earth* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Volume III covers St. Josemaría's years spent in Rome from 1946 until his death on June 26, 1975.

#### **IV. Booklets and Short Works**

Javier ABAD *Holy Mary, Help Us!* (Scepter)

Describes the Rosary as a Gospel compendium, with suggestions on ways of praying it, how to overcome difficulties, and its role in the Church's liturgy and life. Focuses especially on the contemplation of the mysteries.

Mauricio ALEGRE *Love and Courtship* (Sinag-Tala)

Contains some good ascetical advice on dating and preparation for marriage, explaining the need and meaning of chastity. Uses clear language without going into unnecessary details.

Mauricio ALEGRE *Orientaciones para el examen de conciencia*

On the particular and general examination, their utility, and the different ways of doing them, including an examination on the capital sins and their contrasting virtues.

César ALLER *La Madre de Jesucristo*

A booklet on our Lady's life as found in the Gospel, explaining the Church's teaching expressed in each scene.

César ALLER *La vida de Jesucristo*

A chronological summary of the Gospel scenes, with brief doctrinal and ascetical considerations.

Jesús AZCÁRATE *Devociones para cada día de la semana*

A collection of texts from Scripture, the Magisterium and theologians on the angels, the souls in purgatory, St. Joseph, the Eucharist, the Passion, the Virgin Mary and the Blessed Trinity, along with some brief and simple prayers.

José Benito CABANIÑA *Sentimiento y amor de Dios*

Confronts a common early difficulty in persevering in one's dedication to God: excessive dependence on "feelings," moods, enthusiasm, etc. Very useful.

Pablo CABELLOS *Formación de la conciencia*

Briefly summarizes and critiques the error of the absolute autonomy of man's conscience as the sole source of morality, showing the need to form one's conscience in accord with the Church's Magisterium.

Miguel Ángel CÁRCELES *Cómo vencer los obstáculos*

Brief anecdotes on the need for strength of character. Especially good for young people, encouraging them in their ascetical struggle for fidelity, sincerity, and holy purity.

José Miguel CEJAS *La vocación de los hijos*

This lively explanation uses many examples to show that being young is no obstacle to dedicating oneself freely to God without being imprudent, if one acts maturely and out of love for God.

- Alberto COSME DO AMARAL *Voluntary Mortification for Today* (A.M.I. Press, 1988)  
On the need for active mortification in ordinary life, making good use of Christian Tradition and the Fatima messages.
- Enrique de DIEGO *Los Ángeles Custodios*  
Uses Scripture and the Magisterium to summarize the Church's teaching on the angels, employing many true anecdotes. Encourages devotion to one's guardian angel for help to correspond to God's call.
- Mercedes EGUIBAR GALARZA *Modern Teenager: The Life of Monserrat Grases* (Prow 1968) *Montserrat Grases: Christian Heroism in Ordinary Life* (Scepter, 1975)  
This simple biography focuses on Montse's acceptance of suffering, encouraging young readers to be generous with God from their youth.
- José María ESCARTÍN *Meditación del Rosario*  
Follows St. Josemaría's teaching on the Rosary as a "loving encounter with our Lady in which we speak to her and she speaks to us of the great mysteries of Redemption." Helps fosters a love for praying the Rosary.
- Manuel FERNÁNDEZ AREAL *Hijos de Dios*  
Reflects on St. Josemaría's teaching on the sanctification of ordinary life, focused on divine filiation.
- Francisc FERNÁNDEZ (CARVAJAL) *Spiritual Direction* (Scepter)  
Explains the need for a spiritual director, how to choose the right one, the need for sincerity, trust, docility, supernatural outlook, constancy, etc. Makes many references to Scripture and Tradition. Very useful.
- José Antonio GARCÍA PRIETO *Comprometerse en la vocación*  
Stresses that the purpose of our life is to reach God, and speaks about the call to holiness in everyday life and fidelity.
- José Antonio GARCÍA PRIETO *Sinceridad de vida*  
Helps foster the virtue of sincerity; part one is more doctrinal; part two, more ascetical.
- Michel GASNIER *Joseph the Silent* (Scepter, 2000)  
Fosters devotion to the Holy Patriarch with a month of daily practices of piety.
- Juan Antonio GONZÁLEZ LOBATO *Caminando con Jesús*  
Pious commentary on the principal episodes in our Lord's life, with very practical ascetical insights. Teaches the reader how to pray using the Gospels.
- Manuel GORDILLO CAÑAS *La misa y la vida del cristiano*  
Brief doctrinal and ascetical explanation of the Holy Mass, commenting on the prayers and ceremonies of the *Ordo Missae*.
- Richard GRÄF *Yes, Father* (Atenas, Frederick Pustet Co., 1938)  
On the need to unite oneself to God's will with childlike simplicity. Written in an intimate tone, directed more to the heart than the head.
- Juan GRINDA *La práctica de la oración*  
Fosters a day-to-day perseverance in prayer, at fixed times and if possible in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, without discouragement. With many examples drawn from daily life.
- Juan GRINDA *Miedo al qué dirán*  
On human respects and lukewarmness: origin, symptoms and means to conquer them in the apostolate. Contains many anecdotes.

- José Manuel IGLESIAS *Una costumbre diaria: la visita al Santísimo*  
Explains the meaning of this act of piety. Fosters Eucharistic devotion, teaching proper etiquette in piety.
- Ronald A. KNOX *The Creed in Slow Motion* (Sheed & Ward, 1950)  
Conferences for high school students, written in a colloquial yet elegant style. Explains each article of the Creed, drawing practical consequences. Very useful.
- Camilo LÓPEZ PARDO *Pureza, camino de amor*  
Especially good for those preparing for marriage, stressing conjugal chastity and responsible parenting, etc.
- Francisco LUNA *Making the Most of Confession* (Scepter)  
Gives a brief explanation of the nature of sin, the sacrament of Penance, and how to make a good confession, with a good examination of conscience. Very useful.
- Francisco LUNA *How to do Mental Prayer and Living in God's Presence* (Sinag-Tala)  
On mental and vocal prayer—how to do it, difficulties, etc.—and on presence of God in one's daily occupations. Many good examples and quotes from Scripture, the Magisterium, and other sources, especially St. Josemaría. Includes some vocal prayers at the end.
- Francisco LUNA *Por qué mortificarse*  
Explains the reasons for mortification, showing its basis in Scripture. With practical examples of interior mortification and possible mortifications in ordinary life.
- Francisco LUNA *Qué es el pecado*  
Summarizes the Church's doctrine on sin, its malice, the punishment it entails, how to distinguish its number and kind, etc. Stresses responsibility in forming one's conscience well.
- Jesús MARTÍNEZ *Para pedir perdón a Dios. Para el curso de retiro*  
On sin, contrition, and the sacrament of penance, with many specific anecdotes.
- Jenaro MOLINA *Alegrías y apuros de una familia numerosa*  
Using many anecdotes, the author shows how happiness is the consequence of being generous in accepting the children God wants to send, and educating them in the faith. Also speaks about how to overcome difficulties.
- Enrique MONASTERIO *El Belén que puso Dios*  
Simple and poetic description of Christmas showing how to value material things in relation to God's recapitulation of all things in Christ. Contains many of St. Josemaría's ideas.
- José María MUNTADAS *Debo hacer apostolado*  
Commentary on the first miraculous catch of fish (Lk 5) and other Gospel passages. Stresses the apostolate of friendship in professional work.
- Jesús ORTIZ *Diálogo sobre los mandamientos*  
Comentary on each of the Ten Commandments.
- José Miguel PERO-SANZ *Qué significa creer en la Santísima Trinidad*  
A summary of his book, *El símbolo Atanasiano*, described above.
- Jesús POLO *María y la Santísima Trinidad*  
Explains Mary's supreme dignity, and her intimate union with the three divine Persons. Considers each of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Jorge SALINAS *El sentido de la vida*

Helps the reader to discover God's will in ordinary life, in work, the family and social life, stressing the need to unite oneself to Christ's Cross.

Jorge SALINAS *La gloria de Dios*

An easy-to-understand explanation that is also well-grounded philosophically and theologically.

Jean Paul SAVIGNAC *Historia de la Iglesia*

A short summary of the history of the Church that focuses on its supernatural character (origin, mission, and means), rising above any human weaknesses.

José Luis SORIA *Cómo prepararse bien para el Matrimonio*

An extract from his book mentioned above. Covers human love in courtship, the appropriate manifestations of affection, and what goes against God's will, with specific and practical advice. Also goes into the sacrament of Marriage: liturgy, possible impediments, etc.

José Luis SORIA *La vocación*

Talks about the meaning of vocation, signs of a specific Christian vocation, the response, and perseverance. Very useful.

José Luis SORIA *Noveno mandamiento*

An extract from *Is Purity Possible?* mentioned above. On guarding one's heart

José Luis SORIA *Sexto mandamiento*

An extract from *Is Purity Possible?* mentioned above.

Juan Bautista TORELLÓ *Die Welt erneuern. Zur spiritualität der Laien—La espiritualidad de los laicos / La espiritualidad de los laicos* (also in VV.AA., *La vocación cristiana*)

Short article based on *The Way*, addressing the laity's call to sanctity and apostolate.

Jesús URTEAGA *Always Cheerful* (Sinag-Tala)

Series of talks filled with anecdotes and practical advice on the practice of Christian virtues in ordinary life. Stresses overcoming selfishness and thinking about the others. From his TV program.

## **V. Selected Works of Theology**

This section lists works of theology that the general public may find useful for their own formation. Many other works that could have been included here have been omitted.

### **1. Sacred Scripture**

Joseph BONSIRVEN *Theology of the New Testament* (Newman Press, 1963).

Louis BOUYER *The Meaning of Sacred Scripture* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1958).

Célestin Paul CHARLIER *The Christian Approach to the Bible* (Paulist Press, 1967).

Ferdinand PRAT *The Theology of St. Paul* (Newman Press, 1950).

Giuseppe RICCIOTTI *The Acts of the Apostles: Texts and Commentary* (Bruce Pub. Co., 1958).

Giuseppe RICCIOTTI *Paul the Apostle* (Bruce Pub. Co, 1953).

André ROBERT; André FEUILLET (ed.) *Introduction to the New Testament and Introduction to the Old Testament and Interpreting the Scriptures* (Desclee, 1962, 1965, 1968 and 1969).

Henri-Dominique SAFFREY *Histoire de l'apôtre Paul / San Paolo Apostolo: una bibliografia storica.*

Heinrich SCHLIER *Der Römerbrief*

Miguel Ángel TÁBET *Introduzione al Pentateuco e ai Libri Storici dell'Antico Testamento / Introducción al Antiguo Testamento. Pentateuco y Libros Históricos.*

Miguel Ángel TÁBET *Introduzione alla Sacra Scrittura* (San Paolo, 1998).

Miguel Ángel TÁBET *Introduzione generale alla Bibbia / Introducción general a la Biblia.*

Manuel de TUYA; José SALGUERO *Introducción a la Biblia (I-II)* (BAC, 1967).

Alfred WIKENHAUSER; Otto KUSS *Regensburger Neues Testament* (Regensburg, 1958-1968; Morcelliana, 1962-1971).

## 2. Patrology

Berthold ALTANER; Alfred STUIBER *Patrology* (Herder, 1960).

Gustave BARDY *The Church at the End of the First Century*, translated by P. W. Singleton (Sands & co., limited, 1938).

Guido BOSIO; Enrico dal COVOLO; Mario MARITANO *Introduzione ai Padri della Chiesa*

Enrique MOLINÉ *Los Padres de la Iglesia. Una guía introductoria*, (Palabra, 1986).

Johannes QUASTEN *Patrology* (Christian Classics, 1986)

Domingo RAMOS-LISSON *Bibliographia Patristica/Internationale Patristische Bibliographie, No 24/25.*

## 3. Introduction to Theology

Arturo BLANCO *¿Qué es la teología?*

José María CASCIARO *Exégesis bíblica, hermenéutica y teología.*

Georges CHANTRAINE *Cos'è la teologia? Come studiare la teologia.*

Cornelio FABRO *Introducción al tomismo—Introduzione a San Tommaso*, 2ª edition.

Cornelio FABRO *Il problema di Dio—Introduzione al problema teologico.*

Etienne GILSON *The Philosopher and Theology* (Random House, 1962).

Etienne GILSON *Thomism: The Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas* (Pontifical Inst. of Medieval Studies, 2002).

Javier IBÁÑEZ; Fernando MENDOZA *Introducción a la Teología* (Palabra, 1982).

Josef PIEPER *Guide to Thomas Aquinas* (Notre Dame University Press, 1987; Ignatius, 1991).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae, I, q. 1.*

Jean-Pierre TORRELL *Saint Thomas Aquinas: The person and his work*, Translated by Robert Royal (Catholic Univ. of America Press, 2005).

James Athanasius WEISHEIPL *Friar Thomas d'Aquino: His Life, Thought and Work* (Doubleday, 1974; Catholic Univ. of America Press, new ed., 1983).

#### **4. Fundamental Theology**

César IZQUIERDO *Teología Fundamental*

René LATOURELLE *Theology of Revelation* (Alba House, 1987).

John Henry Cardinal NEWMAN *Grammar of Assent. Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent* (Clarendon Press, 1985).

Fernando OCÁRIZ; Arturo BLANCO *Revelación, fe y credibilidad (2ªed actualizada: Teología Fundamental)* (Apollinare Studi, 1997; Palabra, 1998).

Joseph RATZINGER *Introduction to Christianity* (Ignatius Press, 1990).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa contra gentiles, lib. I, cc. 1-10; Summa Theologiae, II-II, qq. 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 171-174 y 176-178.*

#### **5. Dogmatic Theology**

Jean-Hervé NICOLAS *Synthèse dogmatique. De la Trinité à la Trinité (Sintesi dogmatica. Dalla Trinità alla Trinità)* (Éditions Universitaires-Beauchesne, 1985; Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1992).

Fernando OCÁRIZ *Naturaleza, gracia y gloria*

##### **a) On God, One and Three**

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *God, His Existence and His Nature* (Herder, 1934).

Lucas Francisco MATEO-SECO *Dios Uno y Trino*

Matthias Joseph SCHEEBEN *The Mysteries of Christianity* (Herder, 1946; Alba, 1962).

Leo SCHEFFCZYK *Der eine und dreifaltige Gott (Dios Uno y Trino)* (M. Grünwald, 1969; FAX, 1973).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae, I qq. 2-43 (Deo Trino).*

##### **b) Creation**

Louis BOUYER *Cosmos: The World and the Glory of God* (St. Bede's Publications, 2002; Fordham Univ. Press, 1988; Ed. du Cerf, 1982).

José MORALES *Creation Theology* (Scepter 2001)

Joseph RATZINGER *In the beginning: a Catholic understanding of the story of Creation and the fall* (Eerdmans Publishing, 1995).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae, I, qq. 44-76; 103-105.*

### c) Christology

- Karl ADAM *Christ of Faith* (New American Library, 1957).
- José CABA *De los evangelios al Jesús histórico*, 2nd ed. (BAC, 1980) (edition in italiano, Paoline).
- Claude CHOPIN *Le Verbe Incarné et Rédempteur*, 2nd ed. (*El Verbo Encarnado y Redentor*) (Desclée, 1966; Herder, 1979).
- Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *Christ the Savior* (Herder 1950)—*Our Savior and His Love for Us* (TAN Books, 1)  
Complete treatise on the mystery of the Incarnation in the light of Scripture, written with piety and devotion to Christ's Sacred Humanity, with practical consequences. Requires some theological formation.
- Fernando OCÁRIZ; Lucas Francisco MATEO-SECO; José Antonio Riestra *The Mystery of Jesus Christ: a christology and soteriology textbook* (Four Courts Press; Scepter, 1994).
- Giuseppe RICCIOTTI *Life of Christ* (Bruce Publishing Co., 1960).
- José Antonio SAYÉS *Señor y Cristo. Curso de Cristología*

### d) Christian Anthropology

- Jean-Hervé NICOLAS *The Mystery of God's Grace* (Bloomsbury, 1960).
- Fernando OCÁRIZ *Hijos de Dios en Cristo: introducción a una teología de la participación sobrenatural* (Eunsa, 1972).
- Gérard PHILIPS *L'union personnelle avec le Dieu vivant* (University Press, Leuven, 1989).
- Henri RONDET *The grace of Christ: a brief history of the theology of grace* (Newman Press, 1967).
- Matthias Joseph SCHEEBEN *The Glories of Divine Grace* (TAN Books, 2000)  
For people with theological studies.
- Ceslas SPICQ *Dieu et l'homme selon le Nouveau Testament (Dios y el hombre en el Nuevo Testamento)* (Ed. du Cerf, 1961; Secretariado Trinitario, 1979).
- St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 20 aa. 2 y 3; I-II qq. 110-114; III, qq. 1-59.

### e) Ecclesiology

- Paul HAYWARD, trans., ed. *Studies on the Prelature of Opus Dei: On the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Apostolic Constitution "Ut sit"* (Wilson & Lafleur, 2008).
- Louis BOUYER *The Church of God, Body of Christ, and Temple of the Spirit* (Franciscan Herald Press, 1982).
- Lucien CERFAUX *The Church in the Theology of St. Paul* (Herder and Herder, 1962).
- Paul FAYNEL *L'Église*, 2 vols. (*La Iglesia*) (Desclée, 1970; Herder, 1973).
- Amadeo DE FUENMAYOR *Escritos sobre Prelaturas Personales* (Eunsa, 1992).
- Charles JOURNET *Theology of the Church* (Ignatius Press, 2004).
- Gérard PHILIPS *L'Église et son mystère au II Concile du Vatican: Histoire, texte et commentaire de la constitution Lumen gentium* (Desclée, 1968; Herder, 1968).

Álvaro del PORTILLO Y DIEZ DE SOLLANO *Faithful and Laity in the Church: The Bases of Their Legal Status* (Ecclesia Press, 1972).

Joseph RATZINGER *Church, Ecumenism, and Politics: New Endeavors in Ecclesiology* Trans. by Michael J. Miller (Ignatius, 2008).

Joseph RATZINGER *Pilgrim fellowship of faith: the Church as communion*, Trans. by Henry Taylor (Ignatius Press, 2005).

Joseph RATZINGER *Called to Communion: Understanding the Church Today* (Ignatius Press, 1996).

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ *Particular churches and personal prelatures: a theological study of a new canonical institution* (Four Courts, 1986).

Rudolf SCHNACKENBURG *The Church in the New Testament* (Herder, 1965).

José Ramón VILLAR *Eclesiología y Ecumenismo. Comunión, Iglesia local, Pedro.*

#### **f) Mariology**

Juan Luis BASTERO DE ELEIZALDE *Mary, Mother of the Redeemer* (Four Courts Press, Scepter, 2006).

Clément DILLENCHNEIDER *Marie dans l'économie de la création renouvelée* (Alsatia, 1959).

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *The Mother of the Savior and our Interior Life* (Herder; TAN Books, 1994)

This brief treatise on Mariology is more spiritual than academic; useful for persons who have studied theology.

Javier IBÁÑEZ; Fernando MENDOZA *La Madre del Redentor* (Palabra, 1980).

Miguel PONCE CUÉLLAR *María, Madre del Redentor y Madre de la Iglesia.*

Gabriele M. ROSCHINI *Maria santissima nella storia della salvezza. Trattato completo di mariologia alla luce del Concilio Vaticano II*, 4 vols. (Isola de Liri, 1968).

St. Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologiae III pars, qq. 27-30; q. 35, aa.3-6; q. 37, a. 4.*

#### **g) Eschatology**

J. José ALVIAR *Escatología*

Jean-Marie AUBERT *Et après... Vie ou néant? Essai sur l'au-delà (E dopo la morte... niente?: saggio sull'aldilà)* (Desclée de Brouwer, 1991; Edizioni Paoline, 1993)..

Giovanni MOIOLI *L'escatologico cristiano. Proposta sistematica* (Glossa, 1994).

Cándido POZO *La teología del más allá*

#### **h) Ecumenism**

Konrad ALGERMISSEN *Christian Denominations* (Herber, 1948).

Pedro RODRÍGUEZ *Iglesia y Ecumenismo* (Rialp, 1979).

Gustave THILS *L'Eglise et les Eglises (La Iglesia y las Iglesias)* (Palabra, 1968).

José Ramón VILLAR *Eclesiología y Ecumenismo. Comunión, Iglesia local, Pedro.*

## 6. Moral Theology

### a) Manuals

Jean-Marie AUBERT *Abrégé de la Morale Catholique. La Foi vécue (Compendio della Morale Cattolica. La Fede vissuta—Compendio de la Moral católica. La Fe vivida)* (Desclée, 1987; Ed. Paoline, 1989; Edicep, 1990).

Enrique COLOM; Ángel RODRÍGUEZ LUÑO *Scelti in Cristo per essere santi. v. 1: Morale fondamentale (Rodríguez Luño - Colom); v.3: Morale speciale (Rodríguez Luño); v.4: Morale sociale (Colom) / Elegidos en Cristo para ser santos.*

Aurelio FERNÁNDEZ *Compendio de Teología Moral* (Palabra, 1995).

Aurelio FERNÁNDEZ *Our Moral Life in Christ: A Basic Course in Moral Theology (Teología Moral, vol. I-III)*, (Midwest Theological Forum, 1998; Ediciones Aldecoa, 1992)

This basic course on Moral Theology, with a Christological focus, is particularly suitable for the high school level as well as for some university students. Every chapter opens with a moral case and ends with an outline (glossary and summary of principles), supplemental readings, questions and practical exercises.

Anselm GÜNTHÖR *Anruf und Antwort. Handbuch der katholischen Moraltheologie, Band 1: Allgemeine Moral (Chiamata e risposta (Una nuova teologia morale, vol. I: Morale generale)* (Patris, Vallendar-Schönstatt, 1993; 5th corrected edition, Ed. Paoline, 1988).

Dominicus M. PRÜMMER *Handbook of Moral Theology* (Published by P.J. Kenedy, 1957).

Antonio ROYO MARÍN *The Theology of Christian Perfection Foundation for a Christian Civilization* (Priority Press, 1962).

### b) Fundamental Moral Theology

Giuseppe ABBÀ *Felicità, vita buona e virtù (Felicidad, vida buena y virtud)* (LAS, 1989; Eunsa, 1992).

Carlo CAFARRA *Living in Christ* (Ignatius Press, 1987).

Ramón GARCÍA DE HARO *La vida cristiana. Curso de Teología Moral fundamental (La vita cristiana. Corso di teologia morale fondamentale)* (Eunsa, 1992; Ares, 1995).

Servais PINCKAERS *The Sources of Christian Ethics* (Catholic Univ. of America Press, 1995).

Martin RHONHEIMER *Die Perspektive der Moral / La perspectiva de la moral: fundamentos de la ética filosófica.*

Ceslas SPICQ *Théologie Morale du Nouveau Testament (Teología Moral del Nuevo Testamento vol. I-II)* (J. Gabalda, 1965; Eunsa, 1970-1973).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae I-II qq. 1-114.*

### c) Special Moral Theology

Jean-Marie AUBERT *Morale sociale pour notre temps (Moral social para nuestro tiempo—Morale Sociale, 2nd ed.)* (Desclée, 1971; Herder, 1973; Cittadella, 1975).

Joseph HÖFFNER *Fundamentals of Christian Sociology* (Mercier, 1962).

Ángel RODRÍGUEZ LUÑO *La scelta etica. Il rapporto fra libertà e virtù* (Ares, 1988).

Augusto SARMIENTO; Tomás TRIGO; Enrique MOLINA *Moral de la persona*

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae II-II qq. 47-79, 123-140, 141-170; Quaestiones disputatae de virtutibus cardinalibus (Cardinal Virtues).*

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae, II-II, qq. 1-46, 80-101; In duo praecepta caritatis et in decem Legis praecepta (Theological Virtues).*

Karol WOJTYLA *Love and responsibility* (Ignatius Press, revised ed., 1993).

## **7. Sacramental and Liturgical Theology**

### **a) General, Baptism, and Confirmation**

Antonio MIRALLES *I sacramenti cristiani: trattato generale / Los sacramentos cristianos.*

Antonio PIOLANTI *I Sacramenti*, 3rd revised ed., (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1990).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae III qq. 60-65 (Baptism).*

### **b) Eucharist**

Johann AUER *A general doctrine of the Sacraments and the mystery of the Eucharist* (Catholic University of America Press, 1995).

Louis BOUYER *Eucharist: Theology and Spirituality of the Eucharistic Prayer* (Desclée, 1966; University of Notre Dame Press, 1968).

Ángel GARCÍA IBÁÑEZ *L'Eucaristia, dono e mistero. Trattato storico-dogmatico sul mistero eucaristico.*

Antonio PIOLANTI *The Holy Eucharist (Il Mistero Eucaristico)* (Desclée, 1961; Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1990).

Jesús SOLANO *Textos eucarísticos primitivos*, 2 volumes 2nd ed. (BAC, 1978).

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae, III, qq. 73-83.*

### **c) Penance and Anointing of the Sick**

John Paul II *On Reconciliation and Penance in the Mission of the Church Today (Reconciliatio et poenitentia).*

St. Thomas AQUINAS *Summa Theologiae III, qq. 84-90; Supplementum qq. 1-33.*

### **d) Matrimony**

Antonio MIRALLES *Il matrimonio: Teologia e vita (El matrimonio: Teología y vida)* (Edizioni San Paolo, 1996; Palabra, 1997).

Augusto SARMIENTO *El matrimonio cristiano* (Eunsa, 1997).

### **e) Liturgy**

José Antonio ABAD IBÁÑEZ *La celebración del misterio cristiano* (Eunsa, 1996).

P.J. ELLIOT *Ceremonies of the Modern Roman Rite* (Ignatius Press, 1995).

Aimé Georges (ed.) MARTIMORT *The Church at Prayer: an Introduction to the Liturgy* (Collegeville, 1992).

## **8. Spiritual Theology**

Jordan AUMANN *Spiritual Theology* (Sheed and Ward, 1980; Roman Catholic Books)  
For people who have studied theology.

Manuel BELDA *Guiados por el Espíritu de Dios. Curso de Teología Espiritual.*

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *Providence* (Herder, 1953; TAN Books, 1).

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *Christian Perfection and Contemplation: According to St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John of the Cross* (Kessinger Publishing, 2007; Tan, 2004).

José Luis ILLANES *Tratado de Teología espiritual*

Servais PINCKAERS *La vida espiritual: según San Pablo y Santo Tomás.*

Javier SESÉ *Historia de la espiritualidad*

Adolphe TANQUEREY *The Spiritual Life* (TAN Books, 2001)

A complete and systematic treatise on the interior life similar to Garrigou-Lagrange's *The Three Ages of the Interior Life*, with many practical and pious elements. Not advisable to read one immediately after the other. Although not written for the laity or in view of the vocation and mission proper to lay people, this book contains much good doctrine for the discriminating and discerning reader. Those experienced in the interior struggle will benefit more from it; priests may find it helpful for their work of spiritual guidance.

## **9. Church History**

Ludwig HERTLING *A History of the Catholic Church* (The Newman Press, 1957).

Philip HUGHES *A Popular History of the Catholic Church* (Burns Oates, Image, 1954).

Hubert JEDIN *Ecumenical councils of the Catholic Church: an historical outline* (Herder, 1960).

José ORLANDIS; Michael ADAMS *A Short History of the Catholic Church* (Four Courts Press, Scepter, 1993; Palabra, 1986).

## **VI. Titles Recommended by Readers in the United States**

Emidio D'ASCOLI *Family and Marriage* (Scepter, 1961)

Written in 1960. It has eleven chapters: 1. Society and matrimony; 2. Formation and matrimony; 3. The campaign against indissolubility; 4. Christ's teaching and matrimony; 5. The role of love in matrimony; 6. How that love can degenerate; 7. The fear of children; 8. The first duties of parenthood; 9. The true nature of education; 10. Character education; 11. Parents of the future.

Marcelle AUCLAIR *St. Teresa of Avila* (St Bede's Publications, 2003).

Pierre BARBET *A Doctor At Calvary: the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ as Described by a Surgeon* (Roman Catholic Books, 1993).

Manuel BELDA, ed. *Holiness and the World. Studies in the Teachings of Blessed Josemaría Escrivá* (Four Cour Press, Midwest Theological Forum, Scepter, 1997).

Several theological studies on aspects of the spiritual message of Opus Dei that provide a deeper understanding of the meaning of holiness, the development of the spiritual life, and the sanctification of work.

Sylvester BIRNGRUBER *Morals for Lay People* (Dublin: Scepter, 1960)

This rather lengthy book deals with classical themes of morality "for lay people." It starts with topics on fundamental moral theology—man's end, the moral law, conscience, etc.—and then covers the Ten Commandments. Written before Vatican II, it fails to incorporate the teaching of the recent Magisterium that sheds new light on many present-day moral issues. Despite that, it's an attractive, simple book. For people with good general formation.

Ernest CAPARROS *The Juridical Mind of Saint Josemaría Escrivá: A Brief History of the Canonical Path of Opus Dei* (Wilson & Lafleur, 2007).

John COVERDALE *Putting Down Roots: Father Joseph Muzquiz and the Growth of Opus Dei* (Scepter, 2009)

A short biography of Joseph Muzquiz, one of the first three priests of Opus Dei. Highlights his efforts to build up Opus Dei in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and Japan, and his faithfulness to the spirit of the Work right to his final years in Boston. Useful for all.

Francois Joseph CUTTAZ *Children of God* (Fides, 1963)

This long, 425 page book deals with the topic of filial love for God. Written for people in the religious state, but some chapters are also suitable for the lay faithful.

Henri DANIEL-ROPS *St. Paul: Apostle of Nations* (Scepter Press)

An excellent account of the life and mission of the Apostle to the Gentiles. Though relatively brief, it is very factual and well-paced, and presents St. Paul in clearly heroic terms as a man completely committed to Christ, the Church and her mission of saving all souls.

Joseph RATZINGER *A Journey to Easter* (Crossroad, 1987)

Meditations given during a retreat preached to the Roman Curia at the beginning of Lent, 1983. The last two chapters are directed to priests. The book combines both theological and ascetical aspects. Requires some theological formation.

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *Life Everlasting* (TAN Books, 1991)

On the Last Things, with practical consequences for growing in our interior life. Occasionally uses language and expressions that are not very secular. For people with good theological formation.

Reginald GARRIGOU-LAGRANGE *The Priest in Union with Christ* (TAN Books, 2002)

Begins with the nature of the priesthood, then considers the interior life of the priest, and finally covers aspects of pastoral activity. However, some of the advice it gives is out of date, for example, in areas of preaching and in administering the sacrament of Penance.

Alban J. GOODIER *The Risen Christ* (Scepter)

Scott HAHN *The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Acts of Apostles, Ignatius Study Bible* (Ignatius Press)

The introductions and footnotes of these books are suitable for everybody.

James Cardinal HICKEY *Mary at the Foot of the Cross* (Ignatius Press, 1988).

Caryll HOUSELANDER *The Reed of God* (Roman Catholic Books)

William KEENAN, *St. Josemaría Escrivá and the Origins of Opus Dei: The Day the Bells Rang Out* (Herefordshire: Gracewing, 2004).

Lawrence J. LOVASIK *The Hidden Power of Kindness: A Practical Handbook for Souls Who Dare to Transform the World, One Deed at a Time* (Sophia)

Can benefit both young and old. Goes beyond mere pious feelings. It frequently offers examination points on the topic at hand regarding the motives behind unkind attitudes, actions and words. It often uses the word *kindness* to mean charity.

Edward G. MARISTANY *Call Him Father: How to Experience the Fatherhood of God* (Scepter).

Edward G. MARISTANY *Loving the Mass* (Scepter, 2006)

Josef PIEPER *What Christians Believe* (Franciscan Press, St. Augustines Press, 2007).

Martin RHONHEIMER *Changing the World: The Timeliness of Opus Dei* (Scepter, 2009).

Frank J. SHEED *Theology and Sanity* (up to 1978 edition).

Fulton J. SHEEN *Life of Christ* (Image, 1977)

Fulton J. SHEEN *The World's First Love* (Ignatius Press, 1996).

St. THOMAS AQUINAS *Compendium of Theology* (Herder, 1947; Sophia Institute Press, 1998; also *Light of Faith* Sophia Institute Press)..

Gerard WEGEMER *Thomas More, a Portrait of Courage* (Four Courts Press, Scepter)

Useful for anyone.