

Fr. Morin's Reading Recommendations

The following is a list of authors and books which you may find helpful in your intellectual and spiritual growth. The books vary in genre, topic, and level of difficulty. Different people need or like different books – I have included very brief comments to give you an idea of what it is about. This is just a sample – there are **many** other excellent books and articles out there, especially for specific questions or topics.

Key to the level of difficulty:

EASY – you can read it now, without too much effort

MEDIUM – you can read it now with some effort

DIFFICULT – challenging to read it now on your own; possible to read with guidance or later in college

Spiritual Reading			
<i>These books will help you to develop a relationship with Jesus</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>Captivating</i>	Stasi Elridge	Easy	For women – unveiling the mystery of a woman's soul.
<i>God Calling</i>	A.J. Russel	Easy	A simply, daily reflection about God to reflect upon.
<i>In Sinu Jesu</i>	A Benedictine Monk	Easy	Conversations between Christ and a priest about Jesus' love.
<i>Living the Mysteries</i>	Scott Hahn	Easy	A daily devotional with prayers and meditations.
<i>Prayer for Beginners</i>	Peter Kreeft	Easy	Guide for those who feel they are not good at praying.
<i>Rediscover Jesus</i>	Matthew Kelly	Easy	Practical challenge to put God in the center of life.
<i>Searching for and Maintaining Peace</i>	Jacques Philippe	Easy	A short, simple, way to live every experience with faith.
<i>Unbound</i>	Neal Lozano	Easy	How to let Jesus' power into your life in a very real way.
<i>Wild at Heart</i>	John Elridge	Easy	For men – what has God put in a man's heart?
<i>Introduction to the Devout Life</i>	St. Francis de Sales	Medium	Basic principles of how to live a life of faith.
<i>He Leadeth Me</i>	Walter Czisek	Medium	Reflections on how God can teach through suffering.
<i>Prayer Primer</i>	Thomas DuBay	Medium	For those who want to pray but aren't experts in theology.
<i>Story of a Soul</i>	St. Therese of Lisieux	Medium	St. Therese's autobiography – discovering Jesus' love.
<i>The Discernment of Spirits</i>	Fr. Timothy Gallagher	Medium	14 rules to understand how God works through prayer.
<i>To Believe in Jesus</i>	Ruth Barrows, OCD	Medium	Short book about what God desires in our spiritual life.
<i>Too Deep for Words</i>	Thelma Hall	Medium	Excellent guide for <i>lectio divina</i> (praying with Scripture).
Anything by Jacques Philippe or Fr. Timothy Gallagher			

Theological Reading			
<i>These books will help you to understand what we believe about God, Jesus, and the Church</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>Theology of the Body for Beginners</i>	Christopher West	Easy	Overview of Catholic understanding of sexuality.
<i>Theology for Beginners</i>	Frank Sheed	Easy	Good and concise explanation of basic Catholic doctrines.
<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	The Church	Medium	Covers every Catholic teaching. Excellent index.
<i>Jesus of Nazareth (3 Volumes)</i>	Joseph Ratzinger	Medium	3 Volume explanation of Jesus' life.
<i>Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love</i>	Edward Sri	Medium	Practical insights into John Paul II's Theology of the Body.
<i>Mere Christianity</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	Excellent account of the deepest meaning of Christianity.
<i>The Fulfillment of All Desires</i>	Ralph Martin	Medium	Catholic Spirituality – rather long.
<i>The Great Divorce</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	Creative way to understand conversion, heaven, and hell.
<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	Creative way to understand temptation, and the spiritual life.
<i>Theology and Sanity</i>	Frank Sheed	Medium	Good introduction to reasons behind what we believe.
<i>Introduction to Christianity</i>	Joseph Ratzinger	Difficult	Very challenging reflections on the Creed (what we believe).
<i>Love and Responsibility</i>	Pope John Paul II	Difficult	John Paul dives into the meaning of human love.
<i>Orthodoxy</i>	G.K. Chesterton	Difficult	Interesting description of why Chesterton came to believe.
<i>The Problem of Pain</i>	C.S. Lewis	Difficult	Best explanation of why there is suffering.
Anything by C.S. Lewis, Frank Sheed, or Peter Kreeft			

Scripture			
<i>These books will help you to understand the Bible</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>A Father Who Keeps His Promises</i>	Scott Hahn	Easy	Overview of Scripture as a series of covenants.
<i>No Greater Love</i>	Edward Sri	Easy	A biblical walk through Christ's passion.
<i>The Fourth Cup</i>	Scott Hahn	Easy	Understanding the Last Supper and the crucifixion.
<i>Walking with God: A Journey Through the Bible</i>	Jeff Cavins and Tim Grey	Easy	Overview of Scripture through various time periods.
<i>The Bible</i>	God	IDK	Obvious.
<i>Catholic Journaling Bible (for women)</i>	Published by <i>Blessed is She</i>	Easy	A bible with reflection questions and pages for journaling as you read.
Anything by Scott Hahn, Jeff Cavins, or Tim Grey			

Saints and Stories			
<i>These books provide examples of those who have lived the faith</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>A Witness to Joy</i>	Simone Troisi and Cristiana Paccini	Easy	Life of Chiara Corbella Petrillo, a young Italian woman full of faith and life.
<i>Four Witnesses</i>	Rod Bennet	Easy	Lives/teachings of Sts. Clement, Justin, Ignatius, Irenaeus.
<i>John Paul II: His Five Loves</i>	Jason Evert	Easy	Basic description of John Paul II's life.
<i>My Sisters the Saints</i>	Colleen Campbell	Easy	For girls – examples of strong, female saints.
<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>	G.K. Chesterton	Medium	Life of St. Francis of Assisi
<i>With God in Russia</i>	Fr. Walter Czisek, S.J.	Medium	Incredible story of Fr. Czisek's time spent in Russian gulag.
Anything about Mother Teresa, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, Dorothy Day, John Paul II,			

Searching for Truth			
<i>These books will help you to ask and answer important questions...</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>Handbook of Apologetics</i>	Peter Kreeft	Easy	Reasoned answers to questions of faith.
<i>Reasons to Believe</i>	Scott Hahn	Easy	How to understand, explain, and defend the Catholic faith.
<i>Rome Sweet Home</i>	Scott Hahn	Easy	Scott Hahn speaks of his conversion to Catholicism.
<i>A First Glance at Thomas Aquinas</i>	Ralph McInerny	Medium	Intro to a classical philosophical worldview. Enjoyable.
<i>A Severe Mercy</i>	Sheldon Vanauken	Medium	Inspiring (true) story of love, faith, suffering, and death.
<i>Crossing the Threshold of Hope</i>	John Paul II	Medium	JPII answers questions about faith in the modern world.
<i>Five Anti-Catholic Myths: Slavery, Crusades, Inquisition, Galileo, Holocaust</i>	Gerhard Verschuuren	Medium	The debunking of anti-Catholic myths (myths which you will likely hear in your college classes).
<i>I Burned for Your Peace</i>	Peter Kreeft	Medium	Explanation of St. Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> (see below).
<i>Is It Possible to Live This Way?</i>	Fr. Luigi Giussani	Medium	Questions and answers about Faith, Hope, and Love
<i>Letters to an Atheist</i>	Peter Kreeft	Medium	Real letters and responses from those struggling to believe.
<i>Surprised by Joy</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	Lewis' story of how he went from atheism to Christianity.
<i>The Case for Jesus</i>	Brant Pitre	Medium	The biblical and historical evidence for Christ.
<i>The Confessions</i>	St. Augustine	Difficult	The autobiography of St. Augustine and his conversion.
<i>The Experience of God</i>	David Bentley Hart	Difficult	Hard. Philosophical arguments for the existence of God.
<i>The Religious Sense</i>	Fr. Luigi Giussani	Difficult	Connecting God to our deepest experience and desires.

Fiction			
<i>These books will help you to see beauty and understand the mystery of humanity</i>			
Title	Author	Level	Comments
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Easy	Bilbo Baggins goes on an adventure.
<i>The Little Prince</i>	Antoine Saint-Exupery	Easy	Children's book that is really meant for grown-ups.
<i>Poems Every Catholic Should Know</i>	<i>Compiler:</i> Joseph Pearce	Easy	Collection of classic religious poems.
<i>East of Eden</i>	John Steinbeck	Medium	Deep reflection on evil and freedom. Beautifully written.
<i>Quo Vadis</i>	Henryk Sienkiewicz	Medium	Fictional account of the early Church.
<i>The Space Trilogy</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	A combination of Science Fiction and Christianity.
<i>The End of the Affair</i>	Graham Greene	Medium	The persistence of faith in and over smaller human loves.
<i>The Jeweler's Shop</i>	Karol Wojtyla	Medium	Poetic reflection on human, married love.
<i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Medium	Even the smallest play a part in the drama of good and evil.
<i>Till We Have Faces</i>	C.S. Lewis	Medium	Redemption has to penetrate our core before it matters.
<i>Kristin Lavransdatter</i>	Sigrid Undset	Difficult	Beautiful story of Kristin – her love and redemption.
<i>The Brothers Karamozov</i>	Fyodor Dostoevsky	Difficult	Three brothers and the struggle to be good.
Anything by J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Willa Cather, or Graham Greene			

For Those Who Do Not Like to Read Much			
<i>Podcasts, Apps, Websites, and YouTube Channels</i>			
Name	Medium	Level	Comments
<i>Abiding Together: Sr. Miriam James</i>	Podcast	Easy	Sister talks about living in relationship with Jesus.
<i>Blessed is She – blessedisshe.net</i>	Website/Resources	Easy	Website with resources specifically for women:
<i>Catholic Answers Live</i>	Podcast	Easy	Question and Answers about Catholic stuff.
<i>Catholic Stuff You Should Know</i>	Podcast	Easy	Several funny priests (including mullet guy) talk together.
<i>Fr. Mike Schmitz</i>	YouTube, Podcast	Easy	Short videos with answers to all kinds of questions.
<i>iBreviary</i>	App	Easy	Contains Liturgy of the Hours, Mass Readings, etc.
<i>Leah Darrow</i>	Podcast	Easy	Model who became Catholic talks about faith and life.
<i>Magnificat</i>	Daily Devotional	Easy	Publication with daily Mass readings, prayers, reflections.
<i>The Jennifer Fulwiler Show</i>	Podcast	Easy	A married mom talks about the faith.
<i>Bishop Robert Barron</i>	YouTube, Podcast	Medium	More-grown up version of Fr. Mike Schmitz
<i>Jordan Peterson</i>	YouTube, Podcast	Medium	Not Catholic – but interesting thinker about modern culture
<i>The Lanky Guys</i>	Podcast	Medium	Two guys talking about the Sun. readings. Funny and good.
<i>The Place We Find Ourselves</i>	Podcast	Medium	Podcast about trauma and therapy, with Christian viewpoint