

A Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan

by Fr John McCloskey

Father John C. McCloskey is a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei and a research Fellow at the Faith and Reason Institute. Father John's articles and reviews have been published in major Catholic and secular periodicals, including Catholic World Report, Crisis Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, National Catholic Register, Washington Times, the New York Times, and ACEPRENSA. Fr. John puts together a list of one hundred essential Catholic books for your library.

Catholicism Explained/Theology

[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)
[The Spirit of Catholicism](#) by Karl Adams
[Spirit and Forms of Protestantism](#) by Louis Bouyer
[Christianity for Modern Pagans](#) by Peter Kreeft
[The Lord](#) by Romano Guardini
[Essay on Development of Christian Doctrine](#) by Cardinal Newman
[Parochial and Plain Sermons](#) by Cardinal Newman
[End of the Modern World](#) by Romano Guardini
[Rome Sweet Home](#) by Scott & Kimberly Hahn
[Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma](#) by Ludwig Ott
[The Four Cardinal Virtues](#) by Josef Pieper

History and Culture

[The Great Heresies](#) by Hilaire Belloc
[How The Reformation Happened](#) by Hilaire Belloc
[Survivals and New Arrivals](#) by Hilaire Belloc
[Christendom I: Founding of Christendom](#) by Warren Carroll
[Christendom II: The Building of Christendom](#) by Warren Carroll
[Christendom III: The Glory of Christendom](#) by Warren Carroll
[Christendom IV: The Cleaving of Christendom](#) by Warren Carroll
[Triumph : The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church](#) by H. W. Crocker III
[Enthusiasm](#) by Ronald Arbuthnott Knox
[Love of Learning and the Desire for God](#) by Jean Leclercq
[Christianity and European Culture](#) by Christopher Dawson
[Our Lady of Fatima](#) by William T. Walsh

Holy Men and Women

[Something Beautiful for God](#) by Malcolm Muggeridge
[Apologia Pro Vita Sua](#) by John Henry Newman
[Journal of a Soul](#) by Pope John XXIII
[The Long Loneliness](#) by Dorothy Day
[St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox](#) by G. K. Chesterton
[St. Francis of Assisi](#) by G. K. Chesterton
[Seven Storey Mountain](#) by Thomas Merton
[Mary of Nazareth](#) by Federico Suarez
[Cure of Ars](#) by F. Trochu
[Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage](#) by Gerard B. Wegemer
[Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II](#) by George Weigel

Literary Classics

[Lord of the World](#) by Robert Hugh Benson
[The Diary of a Country Priest](#) by George Bernanos
[Hopkins: Poetry and Prose](#) by George Manley Hopkins
[Don Quixote](#) by Miguel de Cervantes
[The Divine Comedy](#) by Dante Alighieri
[Christianity and Culture](#) by T. S. Eliot
[The Idea of a University](#) by John Newman
[Silence](#) by Shusaku Endo
[Quo Vadis](#) by Henryk Sienkiewicz
[Lost in the Cosmos : The Last Self-Help Book](#) by Walker Percy
[Love in the Ruins](#) by Walker Percy
[Kristin Lavransdatter I: The Bridal Wreath](#) by Sigrid Undset
[Kristin Lavransdatter II : The Wife](#) by Sigrid Undset
[Kristin Lavransdatter III: The Cross](#) by Sigrid Undset
[Flannery O'Connor: Complete Stories](#) by Flannery O'Connor
[The Lord of the Rings](#) by J. R. R. Tolkien
[Brideshead Revisited](#) by Evelyn Waugh

Spiritual Classics

[Confessions of St. Augustine](#) by St. Augustine
[Little Talks with God](#) (modernized version of "The Dialogues") by St. Catherine
[City of God](#) by St. Augustine
[The Problem of Pain](#) by C. S. Lewis
[Dark Night of the Soul](#) by St. John of the Cross
[Mere Christianity](#) by C. S. Lewis
[The Screwtape Letters](#) by C. S. Lewis
[The Everlasting Man](#) by G. K. Chesterton
[Orthodoxy](#) by G. K. Chesterton
[The Greatest Story Ever Told](#) by Fulton Oursler
[Meditations from a Simple Path](#) by Mother Teresa
[Interior Castle](#) by St. Teresa of Avila
[The Way of Perfection](#) by St. Teresa of Avila
[Story of a Soul](#) by St. Therese of Lisieux
[My Way of Life/Summa Theologica](#) by St. Thomas Aquinas

Spiritual Reading

[The Great Means of Salvation and Perfection](#) by Alphonso Liguori
[Uniformity with God's Will](#) by Alphonso Liguori
[Spiritual Theology](#) by Jordan Aumann
[Frequent Confession](#) by Benedict Baur
[In Silence with God](#) by Benedict Baur
[Difficulties in Mental Prayer](#) by Eugene Boylan
[The Tremendous Lover](#) by Eugene Boylan
[Covenanted Happiness](#) by Cormac Burke
[The Soul of the Apostolate](#) by Jean-Baptiste Chautard
[Friends of God](#) by Jose Maria Escriva
[Christ is Passing By](#) by Jose Maria Escriva
[The Way, Furrow, The Forge](#) by Jose Maria Escriva
[Way of the Cross](#) by Jose Maria Escriva
[All for Jesus](#) by Frederick W. Faber
[Abandonment to Divine Providence](#) by Jean-Pierre De Caussade
[Introduction to Devout Life](#) by Francis deSales
[Treatise on the Love of God](#) by Francis deSales
[Three Ages of Interior Life Volume I](#) by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange
[Three Ages of Interior Life Volume II](#) by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange
[Sinner's Guide](#) by Venerable Louis of Grenada
[The Imitation of Christ](#) by Thomas A. Kempis
[True Devotion to the Holy Spirit](#) by Luis M. Martinez
[True Devotions](#) by Louis-Marie Grignon De Montfort

[The Hidden Power of Kindness](#) by Lawrence G. Lovasik
[The Betrothed](#) by Alessandro Manzoni
[The Sadness of Christ](#) by Thomas More
[Conversation with Christ](#) by Peter T. Rohrbach
[Spiritual Combat](#) by Lorenzo Scupoli
[Theology and Sanity](#) by Francis J. Sheed
[Theology for Beginners](#) by Francis J. Sheed
[To Know Christ Jesus](#) by Francis J. Sheed
[Life of Christ](#) by Fulton J. Sheen
[Three to Get Married](#) by Fulton J. Sheen
[The Spiritual Life](#) by Adolphe Tanqueray
[Abba Father](#) by Bonaventure Perquin
[Transformation in Christ](#) by Dietrich von Hildebrand

Miscellaneous

[Crossing the Threshold of Hope](#) by Pope John Paul II
[Companion Guide to Rome](#) by Georgina Masson
[The King's Good Servant but God's First](#) by James Monti
[50 Questions on the Natural Law](#) by Charles E. Rice
[The Intellectual Life](#) by A. G. Sertillanges
[Essays on Woman](#) by Edith Stein