

AN ANNOTATED (BUT BY NO MEANS COMPLETE)  
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SPIRITUAL WRITINGS:  
CLASSICAL, MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY

Athanasius. The Life of Anthony.

*For a millennium, this was the most popular spiritual reading after the Bible.*

Augustine. Confessions

*One of the all time classics of spirituality and western civilization. While at times challenging, it is a rewarding read.*

Benedict. The Holy Rule.

*A sixth century rule for monks that has enriched the Church for about 1,500 years. Although written for monks it is useful for others as well.*

Bernardin, Joseph. The Gift of Peace.

*A very accessible but substantial work by an Archbishop of Chicago. It was completed shortly before his death in 1996.*

Boulding, Maria. The Coming of God.

*A book on Advent by a Benedictine nun that is useful at other times of the year.*

Brother Lawrence. The Practice of the Presence of God.

*A short work about remaining present to God in life.*

Cameli, Louis. The Devil You Don't Know.

*A contemporary work about recognizing and resisting evil in daily life.*

Caussade, Jean Pierre de. Abandonment to Divine Providence.

*As the name implies, this treats trust in God.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church.

*All of Book IV is devoted to prayer.*

Chautard, Jean-Baptiste. The Soul of the Apostolate.

*The work of a Trappist monk that emphasizes the importance of prayer underlying our works.*

Day, Dorothy. The Long Loneliness.

*The moving autobiography of a twentieth century founder of the Catholic Worker movement who combined a strong Catholic spirituality with social radicalism.*

De Sales, Francis. Introduction to the Devout Life.

*A tremendous spiritual classic on growing in holiness in ordinary daily life.*

Galilea, Segundo. Temptation and Discernment.

*A brilliantly insightful work about subtle temptations in prayer and in ministry.*

Gallagher, Timothy V. The Discernment of Spirits.

*An excellent and thorough work treating the Rules for Discernment of Spirits for the First Week in St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises.*

Griffin, Emilie. Simple Ways to Pray.

*A clear, panoramic view of our prayer tradition. It is simple but not simplistic.*

Hauser, Richard. Moving in the Spirit.

*A book on discernment by a Jesuit who led the Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University for a number of years.*

Houselander, Caryll. The Reed of God.

*A book on the Blessed Mother by a British laywoman. It speaks eloquently of seeing Christ in others. Outstanding.*

Healey, Charles J. Christian Spirituality: An Introduction to the Heritage.

*A fine historical survey of Christian Spirituality. The book is the result of the author's teaching this subject for many years.*

Iligabiza, Immaculée. Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust.

*A sobering and inspiring account of a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide that movingly speaks of power of faith, prayer and forgiveness.*

John of the Cross. The Collected Works.

*A single volume containing all the works of a spiritual giant.*

John XXIII. Journal of a Soul.

*Selections spanning the time he was a young seminarian up to and including his time as pope.*

Kempis, Thomas á. The Imitation of Christ.

*A classic from the late middle ages written for those advanced in monastic life.*

Lewis, C.S. The Screwtape Letters.

*A powerful and sobering work on the evil one can work in our lives.*

Merton, Thomas. Life and Holiness.

*A small but very fine work about true holiness by a premier American spiritual writer of the twentieth century.*

Nguyen Van Thuan, Francis Xavier. Testimony of Hope.

*A retreat given in 2000 to Pope John Paul II and the Roman Curia. The author spent thirteen years as a prisoner of the Communists.*

Nouwen, Henri. The Return of the Prodigal Son

*A reflection on both the parable of Jesus and its depiction by Rembrandt.*

O'Connor, Flannery. A Prayer Journal.

*A short but powerful work showing much insight from a young writer in graduate school.*

Philippe, Jacques. Time for God.

*An introduction to mental prayer and developing a life of prayer.*

Polan, Gregroy J. The Psalms: Songs of Faith and Praise.

*The Revised Grail Psalter with a commentary and prayer for each psalm.*

Pope Benedict XVI. A School of Prayer.

*A collection of Wednesday Audience addresses exploring various aspects of prayer, particular as it is treated in the Bible.*

Pope Francis. Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad).

*A 2018 Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness. It includes a reflection on the Beatitudes, signs of holiness and the importance of discernment.*

Schuster, Philip. Seeking God's Will through Faith, Hope and Charity.

*A book that includes discernment through the three theological virtues. The author was monk at Conception Abbey killed by a gunman who entered his monastery in 2002.*

Scupoli Lorenzo. The Spiritual Combat.

*A sixteenth century work that outlines struggles in spiritual life. The combat it describes is largely interior.*

Sheen, Fulton, J. Life is Worth Living.

*Selections from the popular television series of the 1950s by then Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.*

Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) Story of Her Life.

*An autobiography of one of the true giants of prayer that explores prayer as well.*

Therese of Lisieux, Story of a Soul

*The autobiography of St. Therese that among other concepts, explores "The Little Way."*

Unknown. The Cloud of Unknowing and The Book of Privy Counseling.

*A tremendous work for growing in contemplative prayer. This unknown medieval author reveal both depth and practical insight.*

Ward, Benedicta, editor. The Sayings of the Desert Fathers.

*A treasury of compiled wisdom from the Desert Fathers and Mothers of the early Church.*