

# 2019 Catholic Reading Challenge

Reading has made many a saint! Several Catholic bloggers have recently written posts about challenging yourself to read more in 2019. Haley Stewart ([www.carrotsformichaelmas.com](http://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com)) has challenged her followers to read 19 books from a variety of categories in 2019. Jessica Ptomey ([www.jessicaptomey.com](http://www.jessicaptomey.com)) has also extended a reading challenge for the past 3 years. Both Haley and Jessica list categories and offer suggestions for books within those categories. I highly recommend both blogs. However, for those of you who do not spend endless hours reading different blogs and social media pages, I have done this for you! Here are some categories and some suggested reads from both of these very talented writers and a few suggestions of my own:

## A Spiritual Memoir:

*The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day  
*The Seven Storey Mountain* by Thomas Merton  
*My Sisters, the Saints* by Colleen Carroll Campbell

## A Short Story by Flannery O'Conner:

*The Violent Bear It Away*  
*A Good Man is Hard to Find*  
*Revelation*

## A Classic Spiritual Work:

*Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales  
*The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas a Kempis  
*Interior Castle* by St. Teresa of Avila  
*Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux  
*The Three Ages of the Interior Life* by Rev. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrangé

## A Book About Mary:

*Mary and the Fathers of the Church* by Luigi Gambero  
*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary* by Brant Pitre  
*True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort

## A Book by C.S. Lewis or G.K. Chesterton:

*Father Brown: The Essential Tales* by G.K. Chesterton  
*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis  
*Orthodoxy* by G.K. Chesterton  
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

## A Book by a Catholic Novelist:

*The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene  
*Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh  
*Memento Mori* by Muriel Spark  
*Silence* by Shusaku Endo  
*Love in the Ruins* by Walker Percy  
*Diary of a Country Priest* by George Bernanos  
*Lord of the World* by Robert Hugh Benson  
*Gunnar's Daughter* by Sigrid Undset  
*Kristen Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset

## A Book or Encyclical by a Pope:

*Laudato Si* by Pope Francis  
*Veritatis Splendor* by Pope St. John Paul II  
*Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI

## A Book by Scott Hahn:

*Angels and Saints*  
*The Lamb's Supper*  
*Rome Sweet Home*

**A Book by a Catholic Woman:**

*The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander  
*Essential Writings* by St Edith Stein  
*The Privilege of Being a Woman* by Alice von Hildebrand  
*Revelations of Divine Love* by Lady Julian of Norwich

**A Book by Bishop Robert Barron:**

*Heaven in Stone and Glass*  
*Thomas Aquinas Spiritual Master*

**A Book About the Liturgy:**

*The Spirit of the Liturgy* by Pope Benedict XVI  
*The Biblical Roots of the Mass* by Thomas J. Nash  
*Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Brant Pitre

**A Book by an Early Church Father:**

*The Letters of St. Ignatius of Antioch*  
*On Social Justice* by St. Basil the Great  
*On Faith, Hope, and Love* by St Augustine

**A Conversion Story:**

*Something Other Than God* by Jennifer Fulwiler  
*An Immovable Feast* by Tyler Blanski  
*The Confessions* by St. Augustine

**A Book About a Social or Moral Teaching of the Church:**

*Love and Responsibility* by Karol Wojtyla  
*Humanae Vitae* by Pope Paul VI

**A Book about Apologetics:**

*Why I Am Catholic* by Brandon Vogt  
*Your Questions, God's Answers* by Peter Kreeft  
*Answering Atheism* by Trent Horn  
*The Light of Christ* by Thomas Joseph White

**A Book by an Orthodox Christian:**

*Laurus* by Eugene Vodolazkin  
*The Way of a Pilgrim*  
*The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

**A Book By Fulton Sheen:**

*Peace of Soul*  
*Remade for Happiness*

**A Hagiography:**

*Catherine of Sienna* by Sigrid Undset  
*Black Elk: Holy Man of the Oglala* by Michael Steltenkamp  
*St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox* by G.K. Chesterton  
*Magnus* by George Mackay Brown  
*Helena* by Evelyn Waugh

**A Long Catholic Book:**

*In This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden  
*Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset

*Island of the World* by Michael O'Brien  
*The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

**A Book by a Catholic Philosopher:**

*After Virtue* by Alasdair MacIntyre  
*Leisure: The Basis of Culture* by Josef Pieper  
*Aquinas's Shorter Summa* by St. Thomas Aquinas

**A Book by One of the 33 Doctors of the Church:**

*Way of Perfection* by St. Teresa of Avila  
*The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Sienna*

**A Catholic Classic:**

*The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri  
*The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer

**A Book by a Saint:**

*Hildegard of Bingen: A Spiritual Reader* by St. Hildegard von Bingen  
*On Loving God* by St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
*The Scandal of Redemption* by St. Oscar Romero  
*Life of Christ* by Ven. Fulton Sheen

**A Book on Catholic Spirituality Written More than 100 Years Ago:**

*The Spiritual Canticle* by St. John of the Cross

**A Work of Poetry by a Catholic Author:**

*The Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*  
*Poems Every Catholic Should Know* by Joseph Pearce

**A Book on Catholic Prayer:**

*Time For God* by Jacques Philippe  
*Prayer Primer* by Fr. Thomas Dubay  
*Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin

**A Book by a Non-Catholic that All Catholics are Reading:**

*Middlemarch* by George Eliot  
*Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather  
*Love in the Void* by Simone Weil  
*Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson  
*On the Reading Well* by Karen Swallow  
*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

**A Book About a Catholic Monarch:**

*Mary, Queen of Scots* by Antonia Fraser  
*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White (a fictional monarch)  
*Before Church and State* by Anthony Willard Jones

**A Recently Published Catholic Book:**

*The Power of Silence* by Robert Cardinal Sarah  
*The Bloody Habit* by Eleanor Bourq Nicholson  
*One Beautiful Dream* by Jennifer Fulwiler  
*The Grace of Enough: Pursuing Less and Living More in a Throwaway Culture* by Haley Stewart (one of the above mentioned bloggers)

Many of these selections are available at the Pastoral Centre be it in the library or yours to take home with an offering. However, if you have any specific requests for selections you definitely would like to have, please contact me via email at [adultfaith@dotb.ca](mailto:adultfaith@dotb.ca).