

# 2019 Catholic Reading Challenge

Listed here are a few of the categories in Hannah's 2019 Reading Challenge. The arrows (→) indicate which books we have available by donation at the Pastoral Centre. Many of the other books are available in our sign-out library.

## 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 by a Catholic Philosopher:

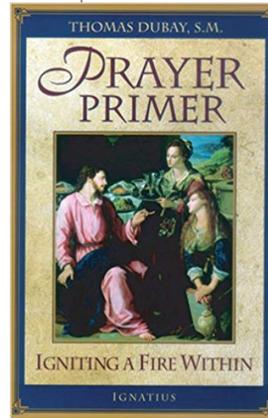
*After Virtue* by Alasdair MacIntyre  
 → *Leisure: The Basis of Culture* by Josef Pieper  
 → *Aquinas's Shorter Summa* by St. Thomas Aquinas

## A Catholic Classic:

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

## A Book on Catholic Prayer:

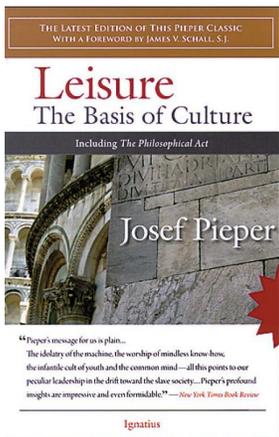
*Time for God* by Jacques Philippe  
 → *Prayer Primer* by Fr. Thomas Dubay  
*Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin



*Prayer Primer* is written for intelligent adults (and teenagers) who want God and a serious prayer life, but it does not presuppose that they need or have a theological background. It does take up many questions rarely answered adequately in the classroom or from the pulpit, indeed often not mentioned at all: Why pray? (be ready for some surprises) ...

Why vocal prayer is important and yet should be limited ... What contemplation is and is not ... Praying with Scripture ... Buddhism? New Age? Centering Prayer? ... What should you do when dry and empty and not at all inclined to pray? How do you even get started? ...

– taken from back cover

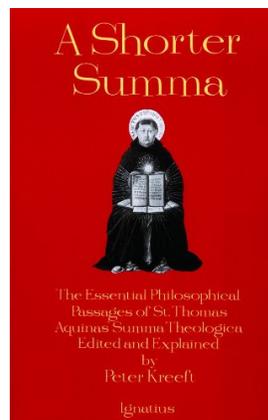


Josef Pieper's *Leisure the Basis of Culture* is among the most important philosophy books of the twentieth century. More remarkable still is the fact that the book's significance is greater today than when it was written more than half a century ago...

Pieper destroys common misconceptions about the idea

of leisure and its relation to work. Leisure is not idleness, but an attitude of the mind and a condition of the soul that fosters receptivity to both physical and spiritual realities. The author points out that sound philosophy and authentic religion can be born only in leisure – a leisure that allows time for the contemplation of things, including the nature of God. Leisure has been, and always will be, the foundation of any culture.

– taken from back cover



This is a shortened version of *Summa of the Summa* by Kreeft, which in turn was a shortened version of the *Summa Theologica* ... the original runs some 4000 pages! The *Summa* is certainly the greatest, most ambitious, most rational book of theology ever written. In it, there is

also much philosophy, which is selected, excerpted, arranged, introduced, and explained in footnotes here by Kreeft, a popular Thomist teacher and writer...

This little book is designed for beginners, either for classroom use or individually. It contains the most famous and influential passages of St. Thomas' philosophy with copious aids to understanding them.

– taken from back cover

## My Pick for June: *Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within* by Father Thomas Dubay

*"Prayer is a precious privilege – and this is putting it mildly. That the Lord of glory, himself unending joy, beauty, and goodness, would invite us to communicate with him and then begin the conversation with his inspired word, which welcomes our responses, is an unimaginable blessing" (25).*

*Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within* is a must read for those looking either to begin, or to deepen their prayer lives. Father Dubay, with brevity and clarity, covers all the foundational elements of each type of prayer (vocal, liturgical, mental, contemplative, etc.). There is much by way of false teachings on prayer. This work, coupled with Part Four of the *Catechism* on prayer, will provide a firm foundation and understanding of the life-changing prayer in the authentic tradition of the Church.

Several years ago I came across Dan Burke's post, Reading Plan for an Ever-Deepening Prayer Life. The book *Prayer Primer* was pivotal for me. Fr. Dubay gives very concrete ways to deepen one's prayer life in order to know God, to love God, and to serve Him.

