



Check It Out

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October 2010

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
-St. Francis of Assisi



Brother Sun, Sister Moon: The Life and Stories of St. Francis (Book) Mayo, Margaret, Little, Brown, and Co., 2000. The story of St. Francis of Assisi, who rejected his wealthy background to lead a life of poverty, good works, and kindness to animals. (P,I,J)

Clare and Francis (DVD, 1 videodisc, 200 min.) Ignatius Press, 2008. Filmed on location in Italy where the actual saints lived, this epic feature film, with the cooperation of the Franciscan Order, is lavish in its production, done with historical accuracy, and places special emphasis on the role of Clare. (J,S,A)

Francis of Assisi: Living Fortitude (Book) Ave Maria Press, 2005. A biography of Saint Francis, prayers by St. Francis and suggestions for teens on how to live a life of fortitude like St. Francis. The prayers and service activities in this book demonstrate to students that they have the strength to stand behind their beliefs and shows how they can integrate the virtue of fortitude into their own lives. (J,S,A)

An Instrument of your Peace: Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi (Book) Rice, Helen Steiner F.H. Revell, 2001. We all need help and encouragement to become channels of God's blessing, to sow love and forgiveness to those around us, and to be beacons of hope and light in a dark and confusing world. This collection of inspiring poems by one of America's favorite poets, Helen Steiner Rice, follows the timeless themes expressed in the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. The themes—peace, love, pardon, faith, hope, joy—blend perfectly with the positive outlook, the concern for others, and the love of God that ring out through the poetry. (I, J, S, A)

Saint Francis of Assisi (Book) Denham, Joyce, Paraclete Press, 2008. St. Francis is particularly remembered for his gentle and caring deeds towards his world and those who shared it with him. His vibrant faith inspired many others to follow his example of a life filled with consideration. This book invites you to step into his world, beautifully recreated in words and pictures. (P, I, J)

Saint Francis of Assisi (Book) Chesterton, G. K. Paraclete Press, 2009. This beautiful edition offers all of G. K. Chesterton's insight, humor, and wit as he uncovers the real meaning of the life of the world's most popular saint. (S, A)

Francis: A Saint's Way (Book) Cowan, James Liguori/Triumph, 2001. James Cowan lived in Italy for three years walking in the footsteps of Francis, following his journeys, breathing his air and sleeping in his caves and grottoes. He discovered a man who, in a sense, de-institutionalised the medieval Church, who represented a mystical Christian tradition and stood up to leaders and theologians and all the great citadels of monastic influence. This attempt to enter into the spirit of Francis as also a celebration of Italy and its ability to inspire the imagination. (S,A)



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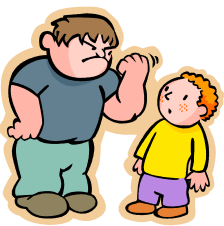
[22 Steps to a Great Parish](#) (Book) Reinhardt, James N., Twenty-Third Publications, 2010. Each chapter offers a practical and do-able plan for a particular area of parish life, and it develops that plan in both broad and specific terms. It also offers questions for discussion and reflection and suggested actions that invite everyone in the parish to make it the best it can be. The author also shares personal experiences around these issues as examples of how the parish can be the place where Catholics enthusiastically share and live their faith. Topics include Sunday liturgy, prayer, stewardship, evangelization, communication, catechesis, staff development, thinking green, and many other practical parish issues. (A)

[Build a Life-Giving Parish: The Gift of Counsel in the Modern World](#) (Book) Hermann, Brenda, Liguori Publications, 2010. Full of creative notions that can prove beneficial to those who, while taking the work of the pastoral council to be a serious enterprise, also find it at times to be tedious, boring, and even unproductive. A careful analysis of the mission field of the laity, as different from that of the ordained, offers an avenue for stimulating conversation and thoughtful consideration. Offers innovative insights into the shared work of laity and the ordained in the "mission field" today. The authors draw from their extensive experience with pastoral councils to present a new understanding of "counsel in council" for the modern world. (A)

[Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time](#) (Book) Knuth, Jane, Loyola Press, 2010. A collection of true stories based on Jane Knuth's experiences serving the poor at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in the inner city of Kalamazoo, Michigan. At the outset of the book, Knuth is a reluctant new volunteer at the store, sharing that her middle-class, suburban, church-going background has not prepared her well for this kind of work. By the end of the book, Knuth has undergone a transformation of sorts, and neither she nor we can ever view the poor in the same way again. These moving stories demonstrate the profound joy any of us can experience when we see serving the poor not as social work, but as a spiritual path that leads us to the heart of Jesus. (S,A)

[Connecting Young Adults to Catholic Parishes: Best Practices in Catholic Young Adult Ministry](#) (Book) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010. Create a young adult friendly parish using the wisdom, insight, and examples from the authors of in this unique book. This resource highlights how to do ministry with the young adults who are already present in the life of your parish. This text builds on the vision of the bishops' pastoral statement Sons and Daughters of the Light to motivate parish leaders to draw young adults into the life of the community and receive the gifts that they bring. (A)

Resources on Bullying and Prevention



[Bullying: What Every Adult Needs to Know](#) (DVD, 30 min.) Brown, Mark L., Educates adults about what bullying is and what they can do to help the young people in their lives when bullying is a problem. (S,A)

[Stop Bullying! Standing Up for Yourself and Others](#) (DVD, 30 min.) Aquarius Healthcare Videos, 2003. Mark L. Brown presents students with concrete steps to take to respond to bullying. (I,J,S)

[Confronting the Demon: A Gospel Response to Adult Bullying](#) (Book) Arbuckle, Gerald A., Liturgical Press, 2003. Bullying is not something confined to school children. It is a widespread abuse found in families, workplaces, organizations, and beyond. Focuses on the nature and types of bullying and what the Christian Scriptures advise to prevent it. (S,A)

Guided Prayer for Kids



[Guided Reflections for Children: Praying with Scripture V1](#) (Book) Loyola Press, 2008. Contains 10 guided reflections that invite children to use their imaginations and help them develop a closer relationship with Jesus through prayer. Each reflection is based on a specific Scripture passage, which helps children grow in their knowledge of key Bible verses as they learn to pray reflectively. Designed for use by catechists, teachers, and parents of children in the elementary grades. (S,A)

[Guided Reflections for Children: Praying My Faith V.2](#) (Book) Loyola Press, 2008. Contains 10 guided reflections which are based on a theme related to prayers and sacraments. These reflections help children grow in their knowledge of the faith as they learn how to pray reflectively. Designed for use by catechists, teachers, and parents of children in the elementary grades, each reflection follows a simple, step-by-step format that makes it easy for children and adults alike to come with confidence into Jesus' presence. (S,A)