



Check It Out

Please post or copy and distribute this brochure to teachers and catechists!

September 2013

Back to School with Jesus

Elementary School

Seeds of Faith for Children (Book) Our Sunday Visitor, 2013. Just like a seed needs the right things to grow -- water, air, dirt, and care -- children's faith needs some important things to grow, like prayers, the Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Sacraments. Seeds of Faith for Children seeks to help children cultivate a closer relationship with God. (P,I)

Holy Crocodile! Stories of Saints and the Animals Who Helped Them (Book) Our Sunday Visitor, 2013. Imagine riding across a dangerous river on the back of a friendly crocodile! Or making friends with a whole pile of snakes. Or going into hiding with the help of some spiders! God used both wild and tame animals to help saints when they needed it most. Here are just a few you'll find in Holy Crocodile! St. Pachome, St. Colman, St. Bridig, St. Cuthbert. (P,I)

The Catholic Children's Bible (Book) Saint Mary's Press, 2013. Children will know and understand God's saving plan revealed through 125 featured story spreads highlighting key Bible passages. Vibrant illustrations immediately engage children and allow them to dive in to Scripture and become immersed in the stories. A Bible that not only inspires, but empowers children to read, live, understand, the Word of God. The stories of our Catholic faith come alive with vivid, awe-inspiring artwork, larger text, and more design features that enhance comprehension and create enjoyment as well. (P,I)

My First Book of Saints (Book) Muldoon, Kathleen M., Pauline Books and Media, 2012. Introduces very young kids to the saints with kid-friendly text and colorful pictures. (P,I)

Sometimes Life is Just Not Fair: Hope for Kids through Grief and Loss (Book) Kempf, Joseph, Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 2012. This book tackles some tough issues in a way that a child will understand: If God is so good, why do innocent people suffer? What is our hope when someone we love dies? How do we go on when our hearts are broken? Meets the child right where we are with just what we need.

Junior High & High School

Youcat Prayer Book (Book) Ignatius Press, 2012. The book includes modern, new prayers, along with traditional prayers, and the time-honored prayers of Holy Scripture. It also gives a lot of practical advice on how to pray: in the morning, in the evening, and in between; in sorrow or in joy. The prayer book is illustrated with many photos of young people from all over the world. (J,S)

Youcat Study Guide (Book) Ignatius Press, 2013. Aimed at helping readers to get the most out of YOUCAT, the YOUCAT Study Guide features 35 topics based on the catechism. Each topic has a brief introduction; short questions on YOUCAT's coverage of the topic; a section on Scripture; discussion questions based on YOUCAT; a brief reflection on the YOUCAT material covered; and a set of ideas for action. Each topic relates the material of YOUCAT in one of the four pillars of the catechism--the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. (J,S)

The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth: Student Book & Teacher Guide -Third

Edition Saint Mary's Press, 2013. A guide for those wishing to use the content in The Catholic faith handbook for youth, third edition as the basis for a Catholic overview course. This guide provides lesson plans and learning experiences. The handbook is a page-turner, whether you are brushing up on specific Catholic terms and concepts or learning them for the first time. The units follow the sequence of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Doctrinal elements of a curriculum framework for the development of catechetical materials for young people of high school age" (S)

Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints (Book) Swaim, Colleen, Liguori Publications, 2011. Shares stories of eight young men and women whose selfless heroism and refusal to deny their faith led to their becoming saints of the Christian church, including Saint Teresa of the Andes, Saint Stanislaus Kostka, and Blessed Pedro Calungsod. (J,S)



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The Reason Series: What Science says about God (Book and DVD) Magis Center of Faith & Reason, 2013. The Reason Series is a 5-Part comprehensive, age-appropriate program designed to empower teachers to effortlessly provide students the evidence they need to be more certain about a transcendent super-intelligent creative power - God. Based on the award winning book, New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy, by Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., The Reason Series follows college freshman Joe as he learns to defend his faith from his atheistic roommate Tyler with the help of physics and philosophy grad students Dan and Alana. (S,A)

Teachers and Catechists

Engaging a New Generation: A Vision for Reaching Catholic Teens (Book) Mercandante, Frank, Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 2012. Engaging a New Generation critically examines our commonly held assumptions as well as our often-used models and methodologies initially developed to reach late Baby Boomer and Generation X teens. It then introduces you to the core characteristics of the Millennial Generation teens and the pastoral implications, where the operational and ministerial borders are expanding far beyond traditional youth ministry. (A)

Introducing Children to Silence and Prayer: For Catechists and Parents (Book) Benavides, Luis M., Liguori Pub., 2013. Through prayer, very young children can learn to talk with God and to build their faith and trust in him in the greatest and hardest of times. By walking catechists and families through the process, he helps them to get to know God and to communicate with the God who loves them. Furthermore, Benavides helps us to reexamine our own attitudes about prayer, as he offers a different perspective to help children begin the journey and deepen their relationship with God. (A)

The Parish Guide to Social Media: How Social Networking Can Recharge your Ministry (Book) Aljentera, Clarissa, Twenty-Third Publications, 2013. This guide shows how your parish can easily optimize social media to build community, promote evangelization, recharge ministries, and work smarter. Promote and coordinate outreach using Facebook and YouTube. Build collaboration among ministries using Google+ Help catechists communicate using Pinterest. Engage youth with Twitter. Get active supporters for your social media initiatives. This indispensable guide is filled with advice and tips to help you use social media to build up your parish and spread the gospel message. (A)

31 Days to Becoming a Better Religious Educator (Book) Dees, Jared, Ave Maria Press, 2013. Jared Dees, creator of the popular website The Religion Teacher, shares practical, easy-to-use teaching strategies and exercises for spiritual growth. These components are designed to improve the effectiveness of any busy religious educator, whether volunteer or professional, grade school or high school. (A)

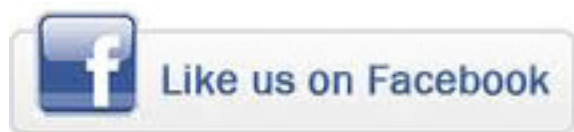
The Parish Guide to the New Evangelization: An Action Plan for Sharing the Faith (Book) Hater, Robert J., Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 2013. Father Hater takes the New Evangelization from concept and theory to practical application, and shows pastoral leaders and ministers exactly how to implement it parish-wide. Learn how to overcome challenges to the new evangelization, how to motivate parishioners to evangelize, how to coordinate efforts at the parish level, how to effectively reach inactive Catholics, how to use the web and other media to promote your evangelization efforts, what sets Catholic evangelization apart from Protestant evangelization, how to jump start parish evangelization, and much more. (A)

Pope Francis

Who is Pope Francis? (DVD) Ignatius Press; Goya Productions, 2013. This documentary film gives an overview into the life, thought and work of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, formerly Archbishop of Buenos Aires and now Pope Francis. The film includes comments on the new Pope by the Provincial of the Society of Jesus in Argentina and Spain, and from a Spanish bishop on the spiritual exercises preached by Cardinal Bergoglio to the Bishops. The film also shows many inspiring images of the papal conclave, and the most emotional details of the first appearances of Pope Francis, sprinkled with humor and warm emotion. Includes a bonus extra film of an interview done with Cardinal Bergoglio only a few months before his election as Pope. (S,A)



On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the Twenty-First Century (Book) Bergoglio, Jorge Mario, Image Books, 2013. From the man who became Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio shares his thoughts on religion, reason, and the challenges the world faces in the 21st century with Abraham Skorka, a rabbi and biophysicist. For years Cardinal Jorge, archbishop of Argentina, and Rabbi Skorka were tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason. They both sought to build bridges among Catholicism, Judaism, and the world at large. Originally published in Argentina in 2010, the book brings together a series of these conversations where both men talked about various theological and worldly issues, including God, fundamentalism, atheism, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and globalization. (A)



The Light of Faith (Lumen Fidei) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2013. The first encyclical from Pope Francis, a continuation of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical letters on charity and hope, addresses the gift of faith that God extended to us and how the light of faith needs to be nourished and reinforced so that it can guide us on our collective and individual faith journey. (A)