



Check It Out

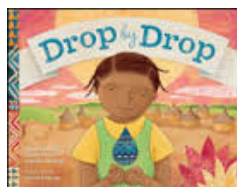
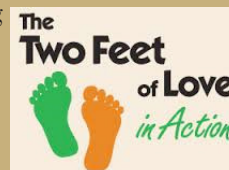
Please post or copy and distribute this brochure to teachers and catechists!

April 2015

Care for God's Creation

Pope Francis' universal intention for April 2015: That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. [Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for 2015](#)

Walking in Jesus' footsteps has two parts. One part has to do with knowing what is right and fair and then using that knowledge to find solutions to problems on a local, national, or even global scale. The other part has to do with showing people that you care about them by offering help and aid. To help children learn these important lessons, [Loyola Press](#), in partnership with the [USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development](#), has created two story books. These books and accompanying teaching materials help children learn how to live as Catholic disciples and put two feet of love in action. (Loyola Press)



[Drop by Drop](#) (Book) USCCB, Loyola Press, 2015. Sister Mary Jerome's nephew Mike works for Catholic Relief Services. This is an organization that helps people throughout the world. Mr. Mike came to Sister's class and told the story of a village in the country of Burkina Faso, which is in Africa. The story is about a girl named Sylvie and how her village needed water. Sylvie is unable to attend school because it takes her several hours every day to collect the water her family needs. Sylvie eventually learns that her village has been chosen for a special Water Project. (P,I,J)



[Green Street Park](#) (Book) USCCB, Loyola Press, 2015. This is a story about Philip who loves his neighborhood. However an area of the Green Street Park is in need of improvement. Philip learns about how St Francis of Assisi loved God's world and cared for it. His teacher, Sr. Mary Clare, challenges Philip to act as St Francis would. As you listen to the story, think about how you would feel and what you might do if you were Philip. (P,I,J)

[The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church](#) (Book) pope Francis, Loyola Press, 2014. Pope Francis has captured the world's attention with his seemingly counterintuitive approach to leadership. Readers get a first-hand look at Pope Francis's vision of the good news of Christian hope and mercy. The book is a compilation of essays, speeches, and homilies by Pope Francis since his election on being a church that exists among and for the people, solidarity with the poor, and the need to demolish the idols of power and money. (S,A)

[Pope Benedict XVI and Environment](#) (Book) Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 2012. Join with Pope Benedict in renewing the pressing invitation to respect our natural environment in this treasure-trove of excerpts from his audiences, speeches, encyclicals, letters, and homilies. (A)

[Return of the River](#) (DVD) ElwhaFilm LLC, 2014. Offers a story of hope and possibility amid grim environmental news. It features an unlikely success story for environmental and cultural restoration. Fundamentally, the Elwha River in Washington State is a story about people and the land they inhabit. The film captures the tenacity of individuals who would not give up on a river, mirroring the tenacity of salmon headed upstream to spawn. It is a narrative with global ramifications, exploring the complex relationship between communities and the environment that sustains them. The camera soars over mountain headwaters, dives into schools of salmon, and captures turbines grinding to a halt; as the largest dam removal project in history begins. The film features people and perspectives on all sides of the Elwha debate, reflecting the many voices of the Elwha valley. (S,A)

[One Human Family, Food for All](#) The "allegory of the long spoons" teaches us that when we struggle to feed only ourselves, everyone goes hungry. But when we focus on our neighbor's hunger, we discover there are ways to feed everyone. (Caritas International)

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New for the Library

[The Essential Catechist's Bookshelf: Jesus, the Master Catechist](#) (Book) Huebsch, Bill, Twenty-Third Publications, 2015. Catechists learn best by watching others—master catechists. And there is no better Master Catechist than Jesus himself. This engaging and informative guide examines how we can become better catechists by following Jesus' example. Taking lessons from Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*, *The General Directory for Catechesis*, and the Gospels themselves, we learn how to draw people around us, speak clearly of the Father's love, and extend God's endless forgiveness to our students. We learn about praying for our students, and how to lead them to the brink of the paschal mystery, trusting in divine grace for the rest. An indispensable book to help catechists integrate Jesus' gospel message into the whole of their being. (A)

[The Catechist's Backpack: Spiritual Essentials for the Journey](#) (Book) Paprocki, Joe, Loyola Press, 2015. Catechists spend their time guiding children and adults in deepening their Catholic faith. But who's guiding the catechists on their spiritual journey? While there are many books about what catechists should know and what they should do, there is very little on the spirituality of being a catechist. Written by two nationally known, expert lay catechists, *The Catechist's Backpack* gives catechists the resources that speak to the spiritual dimension of their call to share the Catholic faith. Warm and conversational, Joe Paprocki and Julianne Stanz foster, explore, and celebrate the spirituality of the catechist, encouraging catechists to embrace their spirituality so that they can pass on a living faith to the children they teach. (A)

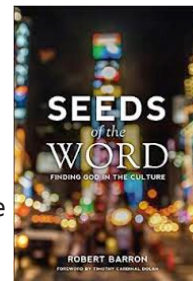
[Spiritually Able: A Parent's Guide to Teaching the Faith to Children with Special Needs](#) (Book) Rizzo, David, Loyola Press, 2015. Both memoir and manual, this new book is a life-preserver to parents who are seeking ways to grow and nourish a deeper relationship to God and their faith for their child with special needs. Full of tips, advice, and personal accounts, *Spiritually Able* helps bridge the gap and invites all into the welcoming embrace of the Church. (A)

[Bless This Mouse](#) (Book) Lowry, Lois, Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011. Mouse Mistress Hildegard musters all her ingenuity to keep a large colony of church mice safe from the exterminator and to see that they make it through the dangerous Blessing of the Animals. (I,J)



New from Father Robert Barron

[Seeds of the Word: Finding God in the Culture](#) (Book) Barron, Robert, Word On Fire, 2015. Since the first century, Christians have detected "seeds of the Word" in the surrounding culture. No matter how charred or distorted the fragments, we can always uncover inklings of the Gospel, which can then lead people to God. Through this evocative collection of essays, Father Robert Barron finds those "seeds" in today's most popular films, books, and current events. How do Superman, *Gran Torino*, and *The Hobbit* illuminate the figure of Jesus? How does Bob Dylan convey the prophetic overtones of Jeremiah and Isaiah? Where can we detect the ripple of original sin in politics, sports, and the Internet culture? Finding the "seeds of the Word" requires a new vision. This book will train you to see. (Available soon!) (A)



[The Best of Father Barron: Ten Sermons to Stir Your Soul](#) (Audio CD) Word on Fire, 2008. In this CD, Father Barron illuminates the Gospel in ten inspiring, challenging, and compelling talks. He looks out at the wider culture and finds points of contact with Christianity as he shares his insights on sin, suffering, the incarnation, family values, and much more. Perfect for listening while driving or traveling, *Best of Father Barron* is a simple, yet comprehensive, introduction to his homilies and commentaries. (A)

[Meditations Before Mass](#) (Book) Guardini, Romano, Ave Maria Press, 2014. A treasury of spiritual wisdom on how to prepare one's mind, body, and heart for Mass from one of the twentieth century's great theologians, *Meditations Before Mass* is Romano Guardini's smart and beautiful guide to spiritual preparation for the source and summit of Christian worship. (A)

[USCCB Sacrament Series](#) (Book) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015. A deeper understanding of the sacraments of the Church means a deeper spiritual life, and this series is the perfect place to start. Written from a pastoral perspective, each small volume provides the reader with a jumping-off point for reflection and prayerful study. Aimed toward families and those interested in increasing their knowledge of the faith, these booklets will bring you and those you love into deeper understanding and relationship with Christ and his Church. (A)



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