

Christian Spirituality: Becoming Holy

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

Genesis 2:7	God formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life.
Leviticus 11:44	We are called to be holy because God is holy.
Psalms 40:2	God draws us from the pit and places our feet on solid rock.
Micah 6:8	The Lord requires that we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.
Luke 24:35	Returning from Emmaus, the disciples tell their companions about their walk and talk with Jesus on the road.
John 4:7–25	Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman at the well.
John 14:16–26	Jesus will not leave us orphaned, but will send his Advocate (the Holy Spirit).
John 17:21–22	“...that they may be one, as we are one.”
Acts 17:28	“In him we live and move and have our being.”
Romans 1:21–25	The godless reject God.
Romans 7:14–24	Our unspiritual selves.
Romans 8:19–23	Creation awaits redemption.
Romans 15:13	May the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing.
Galatians 4:6	“God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts...”
Colossians 3:1–4, 12–17	Set your minds on things that are above; whatever you do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Conciliar Documents

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

13: The experience of sin

24: The communitarian nature of the human vocation: God's design

- 25: The interdependence of the person and society
- 29: The essential equality of all persons: social justice
- 40: The mutual relationship of the Church and the world

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

- 32: The laity: not everyone walks the same path, yet everyone is called to holiness.

Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651118_apostolicam-actuositatem_en.html

- 4: The spirituality of lay people

Decree on the Up-to-date Renewal of Religious Life (Perfectae caritatis)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_perfectae-caritatis_en.html

- 9: Monastic and apostolic callings in religious life

Papal Documents

A Call to Action (Octogesima adveniens) (May 14, 1971), Paul VI

<http://www.osjspm.org/cst/oa.htm>

Paul VI calls on Christians to live up to the duty of participation in social and political reform as a way of discovering the truth and living out the Gospel.

On the Development of Peoples (Populorum progressio) (March 26, 1967), Paul VI

<http://www.osjspm.org/cst/pp.htm>

Addresses the Church's efforts to free all people from the hardships of hunger, poverty, endemic disease, and ignorance in order that all may share in the benefits of civilization.

On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii nuntiandi) (December 8, 1975), Paul VI

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html

The Church exists to continue Christ's mission of evangelization. As members of the Church, we are called to be evangelizers in everyday life.

On Social Concern (Sollicitudo rei socialis) (December 30, 1987), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis_en.html

Commemorates the twentieth anniversary of Pope Paul VI's *Populorum progressio* and reaffirms the continuity of the Church's teaching on social doctrine.

Address to U.S. Bishops (September 17, 1987), *Origins* (Catholic News Service, 3211 45th Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100) Vol. 17 (October 1, 1987), p. 257.

The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People (Christifideles laici) (December 30, 1988), John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html

On the vocation and the mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world

As the Third Millennium Draws Near (Tertio millennio adveniente) (November 14, 1994), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_10111994_tertio-millennio-adveniente_en.html

Calls for a renewed commitment to the teachings of Vatican II as the best preparation for the new millennium. Reflects on the goal of unity among all Christians and the need for the Church to ask forgiveness.

The Church in America (Ecclesia in America) (January 22, 1999) John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html

On the encounter with the living Jesus Christ: the way to conversion, communion, and solidarity in America

Catechism of the Catholic Church

(Click on *Catechism* to find the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on the Web.)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

- #27, 30 We are created by and for God.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s1c1.htm>
- #828 In canonizing saints, the Church recalls the Spirit's holiness that sustains the hope of believers.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p3.htm>
- #1533 Baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist ground our vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p2s2c3.htm>
- #2013, 2028 All Christians are called to holiness: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c3a2.htm#IV>
- #2014 As we progress in the spiritual life, we become more intimate with Jesus Christ.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c3a2.htm#IV>
- #2098 Prayer conditions us to obey the commandments and to make acts of faith, hope, and love.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s2c1a1.htm#II>
- #2657 We are exhorted to pray in hope.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a1.htm>
- #2663 Each Church proposes to its faithful a language for prayer according to its social and cultural context.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>
- #2664 Prayer is primarily addressed to the Father. (See also #2779–85, 2788, 2792.)
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>
- #2665–69 Prayer is also directed to Jesus, particularly by the invocation of his holy name.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>

- #2670–72 The Church invites us to invoke the Holy Spirit as the interior guide of Christian prayer.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>
- #2673–79 The Church prays in communion with the Virgin Mary, to magnify the Lord with her and to entrust supplications and praises to her.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>
- #2683 The pilgrim Church is united with the saints, whose intercession she requests.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a3.htm>
- #2684 The various schools of Christian spirituality share in the living tradition of prayer and are precious guides for the spiritual life.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a3.htm>
- #2685 The Christian family is the “domestic church” where parents first teach their children to pray.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a3.htm>
- #2686–90 Ordained ministers, the consecrated life, catechesis, prayer groups and spiritual direction ensure assistance within the Church in the practice of prayer.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a3.htm>
- #2691 The most appropriate places for prayer are personal or family oratories, monasteries, places of pilgrimage, and above all, the church for liturgical prayer and eucharistic adoration.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a3.htm>
- #2709–19 Descriptions of contemplative prayer.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c3a1.htm>
- #2725 Prayer colors the way we live.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c3a2.htm>
- #2744 Prayer is essential to avoid sin and live in the Spirit.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c3a2.htm#IV>
- #2745 Prayer and Christian life cannot be separated.
<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c3a2.htm#IV>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Documents

Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish. Approved by U.S. Catholic Bishops at their General Meeting, November 1993. <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/saltandlight.htm>
These reflections bring together the principles of the bishops’ social teaching along with local pastoral experience in an overall orientation and general framework for parish social ministry.

Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops (November 1999) [English] <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everyday.htm>
[Spanish] <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everydaysp.htm>.
A Pastoral Reflection on Lay Discipleship for Justice in a New Millennium.

Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium, U.S. Catholic Bishops (September 1999)
<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/citizenship.htm>

Explores how Jubilee Year 2000 could be the beginning of greater respect for human life and dignity, with a growing commitment to justice and peace. Presents the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and moral priorities for public life.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions, U.S. Catholic Bishops (June 1999)

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/contents.htm>

The Church's social teaching is integral to Catholic identity and mission. Expresses the bishops' search for ways to bring the Church's social teaching into all Catholic education and spiritual formation.

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States.

U.S. Catholic Bishops (November 1992). *Text, Study Guide and Implementation Process* by

Susan W. Blum, Ed. D. Washington, DC: National Council for Catholic Evangelization, 1994.

The National Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops proposes three goals for evangelization, recommends strategies, and offers resources for proclaiming the good news of salvation. Special study guide offers faith-sharing questions for each section and a step-by-step process for planning parish evangelization in small groups.

To order: <http://www.catholic-evangelization.org/products>

Books and Articles

References Cited in the "Day of Reflection:"

Dorr, Donal. *Spirituality and Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1984. Out of print. Available through John David Graham (owner), Born Again Used Books, 4836 Flintridge Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918 USA.

Green, Thomas, SJ. *Opening to God: A Guide to Prayer*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1979. A practical guide to prayer and discernment, this book provides a well-grounded and faith-filled view of how the Christian can faithfully seek the will of God.

Green, Thomas, SJ. *When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer beyond the Beginnings*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1998. Offers a clear explanation of the difficulties and consolations of mature prayer. Makes accessible the wisdom of Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Ignatius of Loyola.

Harris, Maria. *Proclaim Jubilee! A Spirituality for the Twenty-first Century*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996. Offers a compelling argument that living Jubilee every day is actually a comprehensive spirituality that will have a positive political, economic, and moral impact.

Hauser, Richard, SJ. *Moving in the Spirit: Becoming a Contemplative in Action*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1986. Shows how to integrate contemplative prayer into life. This book is useful for anyone searching for a basic introduction to Jesuit spirituality—particularly discernment of spirits.

Hays, Edward. *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual*. Easton, KS: Forest of Peace Books, Inc., 1989. Call to a global way of praying. It provides a pattern for prayer for expanding our religious boundaries and to embrace ever wider worlds.

Holland, Joseph. "Beyond a Privatized Spirituality." *New Catholic World*, (July/August 1988): 231.

Puhl, Louis J., SJ. *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1951. The spiritual exercises are designed to assist the deepening of Christian response through an experience of conversion, following Christ, discernment, and finding God in all things.

St. John of the Cross. *Maxims and Counsels to a Religious on How to Reach Perfection, The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross*, translated by Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, and Otilio Rodriguez, OCD. Revised edition. Washington, DC: ICS Publications, 1991.

(<http://icspublications.org/who/index.html>) St. John of the Cross presents four counsels for reaching perfection in the spiritual life: resignation, mortification, the practice of virtue, and bodily and spiritual solitude.

St. Teresa of Avila. *Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila, The Book of her Life, Vol. I*. Translated by Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, and Otilio Rodriguez, OCD. Washington: ICS Publications, 1976. Within the biography of her life, St. Teresa describes how the Lord draws her more and more deeply into union with him.

RENEW International Resources

RENEW 2000 & Beyond/Core Community Handbook. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. (To order: tel. 1-800-218-1903; fax: (201) 825-8345; e-mail: paulistp@pipeline.com)

RENEW 2000 & Beyond/Leadership Book. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. (To order: tel. 1-800-218-1903; fax: (201) 825-8345; e-mail: paulistp@pipeline.com)

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, and Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. (To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/vohaddreflec.html>)

IMPACT Series

IMPACT series (available from RENEW International) aims to connect faith to the wide range of human concerns and personal issues. In the process, participants will be led not only to prayerful reflection and fruitful sharing, but also to concrete actions that influence for the better human attitudes and behaviors.

Jeselson, Mary Ann and Steve. *Civic Responsibility: What's It All About?*
Explores what it means to be a civic leader and to pursue creative solutions to a wide range of human concerns (six sessions).
To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/civicimp.html>

Phalen, John, CSC, & Posluszny, James, CSC. *At Prayer with Mary*.
Through Scripture stories, we come closest to understanding the true person of Mary by focusing on a down-to-earth image of Mary. Presents Mary as a model of Christian living. (seven sessions). To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/atprayerimp.html>

Tuoti, Frank X. *Awakening the Mystic Within: Graced Vision*.
Designed to fire the hearts and stir the souls of those beginning the contemplative journey. Leads small faith-sharing communities to investigate the rich mystical heritage and tradition of the Catholic Church (six sessions).
To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/awakeimp.html>

Prayer resource during the Season of Lent:

Nerney, Catherine T., SSJ. *Lenten Longings... Cycles A, B, and C*.
A three book series designed for small faith-sharing communities looking to make the journey through Lent a liberating, healing, and transforming experience. To order:
[Cycle A] <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/LLCA.html>
[Cycle B] <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/llcb.html>
[Cycle C] <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/LLCC.html>

Web Site Links

Christian Spirituality and Small Christian Community

www.renewintl.org

Web site of RENEW International; see www.renewintl.org/FaithSharing/index.htm which contains materials for faith sharing and suggested action, in small Christian communities, based on the lectionary readings for the next two Sundays.

www.buenavista.org/essentials.htm

A four-booklet series on community, scripture-based witness, justice and outreach, and prayer and ritual. Each booklet contains six sessions that include prayer, scripture, reflection, and faith sharing.

Online Prayer, Christian Spirituality, and Spiritual Direction

www.centeringprayer.com

An international spiritual network of individuals and small faith communities committed to renewing the contemplative dimension of the gospel in everyday, active life.

www.jesuit.ie/prayer

Daily Prayer and online spiritual direction, produced by the Irish Jesuits—creates sacred space through ten minutes of online prayer with the help of onscreen guidance and specially chosen Scripture.

www.vocati.com/od/index1/index.htm (Loyola House Spirituality Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada)

has an international reputation for spiritual direction and for giving the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. This Web site provides prayer and reflection materials, as well as online spiritual direction.

Additional Resources on the Topic of Christian Spirituality

www.ccel.org

Christian Classics Ethereal Library: classic Christian books in electronic format. Enough good reading material to last a lifetime!