

## Reading List for Spiritual Encouragement

St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

*He Leadeth Me: An Extraordinary Testament of Faith*

by Walter Ciszek

Why Should I Read This Book: Fr Ciszek was confined in Russian prison camps or solitary confinement for 23 years, and during that time he remained focused on our Lord Jesus. His book is full of insights about prayer, fighting the struggles of isolation, and God's goodness in times of suffering.

*Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*

by Immaculee Ilibagiza

Why Should I Read This Book: This is a story of courage and how God protects His people during dangerous times. Immaculee is a strong woman of faith, and it is powerful to witness how God guided her through the Rwandan Genocide.

*The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom*

by Slavomir Rawicz

Why Should I Read This Book: This book tells the incredible journey of several men from a Siberia work camp to freedom. One of the most striking elements of the story is its description of the value of friendship during times of crisis.

*The Count of Monte Christo*

by Alexander Dumas

Why Should I Read This Book: Other than being one of the great adventure and revenge stories in world literature, the story of an innocent man betrayed by his friends and sent to prison, only to escape and transform his life, is an excellent reflection about the difficulties we encounter as we climb the mountain of Christ (Monte Christo), namely the mountain of Calvary.

*The Shadow of His Wings: The True Story of Fr. Gereon Goldmann, OFM*

by Gereon Goldmann

Why Should I Read This Book: The title of this book references Psalm 91 and reminds that no matter what struggles we go through God is with us and He protects us, even if those struggles involve trying to get into seminary in Nazi Germany and then you are recruited to become an SS officer. Seriously. That's only part of Goldmann's story.

*Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux*

By St. Therese of Lisieux

Why Should I Read This Book: In the world of spiritual reading, this is probably the best, most accessible to start with. St. Therese is a saint for us all, especially those who do not think they can become holy. Allow her to guide you along her "Little Way" to Jesus.

*The Chronicles of Narnia*

By C. S. Lewis

Why Should I Read This Book: Yes, these are children's books, but the spiritual depths of Chronicles is for children of all ages. Any of the seven books are engaging stories, full of insights for your prayer and relationship with Jesus Christ.

*Brideshead Revisited*  
By Evelyn Waugh

Why Should I Read This Book: An overall theme of this novel by one of the greatest Catholic authors of all time is the power of God's grace to bring people from a life of sin back to Jesus. Brideshead is beautiful, tragic, complex and filled with memorable characters that feel like real people.

*Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at its Best*  
By Eugene Peterson

Why Should I Read This Book: If you want a surprising bible study on the book of the prophet Jeremiah, then this is the book for you. Peterson applies the lessons taught to Jeremiah by God to a modern audience, with the ultimate goal of complete fulfillment of the human heart in Jesus Christ.

*The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*  
By Robert Cardinal Sarah

Why Should I Read This Book: Silence has got to be one of the most difficult parts of prayer and life in general. Allow Cardinal Sarah to guide you in exploring the power of silence and its impact in your life, the lives of your family and friends and in your community.

*Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*  
By N. T. Wright

Why Should I Read This Book: As the title of this book suggests, we need to be surprised once more by hope in Jesus Christ. *Surprised by Hope* is not only beautifully written, but also plunges the reader into scripture and the person of Jesus Christ in order to deepen our hope in Him.

*Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches*  
By George Weigel

Why Should I Read This Book: The Station Church Pilgrimage of Rome is one of the forgotten pilgrimages of the Catholic Church, and Weigel's book allows the reader to enter into the season of Lent by exploring this rediscovered spiritual journey. These churches also introduce the reader to the classic themes of Christian art and architecture.