

Pontifical College Josephinum
Recommended Reading for the
Year for Priests
2009-2010

Dear Brother Seminarians:

Saint John Vianney faithfully and persistently carried out his priestly ministry without any kind of tricks or special programming. He administered the sacraments, preached the Gospel, and made himself to be the spiritual father the village needed. When we attempt to define "evangelization" we can reflect on the lifestyle and ministry of Saint John Vianney.

Today, our culture is yearning for fulfillment, our people are looking for authentic leaders, and believers are looking to their priests to be genuine, spiritual fathers. The seminary is to challenge you to cultivate the virtues within yourself so that you can be the man God created you to be, and the priest the Church expects you to be - all of this to carry out the mandate given to us by Jesus Christ: to teach and baptize all nations.

This resource identifies a number of works that can help us better understand not only the priesthood but also the call to holiness, conversion, and purification. I appreciate all those who contributed to this resource and those who assisted in its publication. May the Lord bless us with the graces we need to discern a priestly vocation, to be formed into priests of Jesus Christ, and to carry out His mission.

May this Year for Priests help all of us to "put on Christ" and shed the old ways of life.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wehner', written in a cursive style.

Very Reverend James A. Wehner, STD
Rector/President

Church Documents (available online at <http://www.vatican.va>)

Haerent Animo by Pius X

Ad Catholici Sacerdotii by Pius XI

Optatam Totius by Paul VI – Decree on priestly training (1965).

Pastores Dabo Vobis by John Paul II – Post-synodal apostolic exhortation (1993).

Presbyterorum Ordinis by Paul VI – Decree on the life and ministry of priests (1965).

Sacerdotalis Caelibatus by Paul VI – Encyclical on the celibacy of the priest (1967).

Studies on Priesthood and Celibacy

“Another Face of the Priesthood” by Earl Boyea – Article in *First Things* (Feb 2000). Fr. Lynn: “This is an excellent response to and refutation of Fr. Donald Cozzen's much discussed book, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood: A Reflection on the Priest's Crisis of Soul*. Msgr. Boyea's analysis of the problems discussed, and his point-by-point critique of *Changing Face* are on the mark, and coincide with my own 40 years experience and observations as a seminary teacher.”

The Case for Clerical Celibacy by Alfons Maria Cardinal Stickler (trans Fr. Brian Ferme)

Celibacy in the Early Church: The Beginnings of a Discipline of Obligatory Continence for Clerics in East and West by Stefan Heid

Christ the One Priest and We His Priests by Clement Dillenschneider C.S.S.R – Makes excellent use of Lecuyer's studies. Discusses priesthood in the Old and New Testaments; divine institution; and the ministries of word, sacraments and praise. Especially good in discussing sacramental character, power, and grace, in concluding Part D.”

Christian Ministerial Priesthood: A Search for Its Beginnings in the Primary Documents of the Apostolic Fathers by Ray R Noll – Investigates the sacralization of Christian ministry: how bishops and presbyters came to be seen as priests. Recent literature. Polycarp. Barnabas. Hermas. Didache

Old Testament Priests and the New Priest by By Albert Vanhoye – Identifies three series of texts about priesthood contained in the New Testament. By listening to the New Testament and being guided by the texts we share an increasing realization of the profound meaning of priesthood.

Priesthood and Diaconate by Gerhard Müller (trans. Michael J. Miller)

Priestly Celibacy: Its Scriptural, Historical, Spiritual, and Psychological Roots—ed. Rev. Peter M.J. Stravinskias

Priestly Identity: A Study in the Theology of Priesthood by Thomas J. McGovern

Theology of the Priesthood by Jean Galot, S.J. - a good presentation of the theology of ordained priesthood, following the teachings of Vatican II.

What Are They Saying About the Ministerial Priesthood? by Daniel Donovan – Offers an excellent survey of what outstanding theologians like Congar, Rahner, Ratzinger, Galot, Schillebeeckx, et al. say about ministerial priesthood. Also reviews Vatican II and post-conciliar documents.

Contemporary Literature on Priestly Spirituality and Identity

Alter Christus – St. Paul Speaks to Priests by Msgr. John J. Gilchrist

Be Thou My Vision: Meditations on the Priesthood by Bishop David Ricken – Bishop Ricken leads priests on a contemplative journey to the core of priesthood. This series of short meditations is meant to deepen and renew a priest's love of his own vocation,

opening the mind to healing and prayer. This book shows how Pope Benedict XVI's call to be "contemplative pastors" can be fulfilled. (IPF Publications)

Before His Face: Meditations for Priests and Religious by Courtois, Gaston Excellent meditations/readings on every aspect of priestly spiritual life. ISBN# 240.6-2551-C866E

The Diocesan Priest: Consecrated and Sent by Monsignor David Bohr

Father Mateo Speaks to Priests on Priestly Perfection by Mateo Crawley-Boevey SS.CC Fr. Lynn: "This book is written with unction and fervor and contains sound advice for advancing in priestly holiness. It is very easy to read. You feel that Fr. Mateo is present talking to you in a personal way. Talks about priestly perfection, the simplicity of sanctity, Holy Mass as means of priestly holiness, Mary, humility, sacrifice, the apostolate, missionary spirit, Sacred Heart of Jesus, merciful love, confidence, primacy of love." 240.6-2551-C911E1

Gift and Mystery by John Paul II

Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church

Joy of the Priesthood by Fr. Stephen Rossetti

Magnificat Year of the Priests Companion Various Authors – Includes prayers, devotions, meditations, and essays on the priesthood

Men of Brave Heart: The Virtue of Courage in the Priestly Life by Archbishop José H. Gomez – A celebration of the priestly life from the historical and Scriptural connections through the example of saints before us.

The Meaning of the Priesthood by Cardinal Avery Dulles

The Priesthood by Benedict XVI (Spiritual Thoughts Series) – A collection of short quotes from our Holy Father on priesthood. ISBN 978-160137-086-0

Priesthood: A Greater Love—International Symposium on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Promulgation of the Conciliar Decree Presbyterorum Ordinis

The Priestly Office: A Theological Reflection by Cardinal Avery Dulles

Priests for a New Millennium: A Series of Essays on the Ministerial Priesthood by the Catholic Bishops of the United States

Priests for the Third Millennium by Archbishop Timothy Dolan

The Priest's Way to God by Eugene Boylan

Quickening the Fire In Our Midst by Fr. George Aschenbrenner, S.J.

Radical Surrender: Letters to Seminarians by Father Michael J Najim – Written to provide encouragement to seminarians and offer them – and all readers – an opportunity to grow spiritually and trust totally in God's providence. (IPF Publications)

Reclaiming Our Priestly Character by Father David L. Toups – The essence of the ministerial priesthood consists in the sacramental character that configures the ordained to Christ the High Priest. Archbishop Dolan on this book: "The renewal of a humble, grateful confidence in their call and identity is a top priority for us priests today. This excellent work really helps, and is worthwhile spiritual reading." (IPF Publications)

A Spiritual Theology of the Priesthood: The Mystery of Christ and the Mission of the Priest by Dermot Power

The Unchanging Heart of the Priesthood by Father Thomas Acklin, O.S.B

Virginity: A Positive Approach to Celibacy for the Sake of the Kingdom by Raniero Cantalamessa – A little book by the preacher of the papal household that explores celibacy and virginity for the sake of the kingdom, "as a gift, in all humility, with joy and perfect freedom."

Why I Am a Priest: Thirty Success Stories—ed. Boadt, Lawrence, C.S.P., and Michael Hunt, C.S.P. Thirty contemporary priests, from different backgrounds and a variety of

ministries, explain why they are priests, despite the difficulties they face. Their stories are inspiring and reveal much about priesthood today. 240.4-2294-B662w
You Are a Priest Forever by Fr. Benedict Groeschel

Classic and Historical Texts on Priesthood

About Being a Priest (New Edition) by Federico Suarez – A new edition of a long-time favorite by Fr. Federico Suarez, who writes about the numerous aspects of the priestly vocation with an eye to both the challenges as well as the joys of the priestly vocation. This work serves as a summary as well as invitation to greater dedication and heroic virtue on the priest's part.

Ancient Fathers on the Priesthood by Edward Male

Christ the Ideal of the Priest by Blessed Colomba Marmion, OSB – *Highly* recommended by several people, including Bishop Provost and Fr. David Toups. Bl. Colomba Marimon was a monk who became well known for his retreats given to priests on the priesthood. His main focus is on the sacramental character of priestly orders. By reflecting on different aspects of the mystery of priesthood, he helps to remind the priest the great dignity of the office and sacrament he has received so that the priest, with an increased awareness and understanding, might allow his life to be transformed by the reality of the sacred mysteries.

Dignity and Duties of the Priest by Alphonsus Liguori

He Leadeth Me by Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ – A reprise of the experiences from *With God in Russia* written exclusively from the spiritual standpoint.

In Defense of the Priesthood by St. John Fisher – written to refute his contemporary, Martin Luther. This is one of Fisher's only extant writings.

Maurice and Therese: The Story of a Love edited by Bishop Patrick Ahern – Exchange of letters between St. Therese of Lisieux and a struggling, idealistic young seminarian. At the end of her life, Therese gives Maurice some of the most simple, profound advice about her little way and about his future identity as priest. Bishop Ahern's deep knowledge of Therese's life and spirituality is edifying and helpful in his commentaries between each letter.

The Meaning of the Christian Priesthood by Gisbert Greshake – Out of Print. Christian Classics (ISBN# 0-1851820280)

On the Priesthood by St. John Chrysostom

On the Priesthood: Classic and Contemporary Texts—ed. Matthew Levering

The Priest, His Dignity, & Obligations by St. John Eudes 978-1-930278707

The Priest in Union With Christ by Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange O.P. 978-0-89555-7025

The Priest Is Not His Own by Archbishop Fulton Sheen

The Sacred Heart and the Priesthood by Louise Margaret Claret de la Touche – Inspired by Jesus desire to share certain aspects of his sacred heart that he has kept solely for priests, this poignant book explores the priestly virtues in the heart of Jesus through opening up the Scriptural texts. A very moving devotional book.

Those Mysterious Priests by Archbishop Fulton Sheen – emphasizes the necessity of the priest to also be Victim.

With God in Russia by Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ – Father Ciszek, tells the story of his twenty-three years in Russian prison camps in Siberia, how he was falsely imprisoned as an "American spy", the incredible rigors of daily life as a prisoner, and his extraordinary faith in God and commitment to his priestly vows and vocation. He said Mass under cover, in constant danger of death. He heard confession of hundreds who could have betrayed him; he aided spiritually many who could have gained by exposing him.

Note from Fr. Mengelle: "Excellent are the works of St. John of Avila (few of them translated though, but all available in Spanish) who was the inspiring leader for the creation of Seminaries at Trent (He had created priestly "schools" in Spain.)"

The Priest and the Blessed Mother

Behold Your Mother, Priests Speak About Mary by Fr. Stephen Rossetti
Mary and the Priestly Ministry by Fr. Emile Nubert, S.M. (ISBN# 978-1-60114-0463)
Virgin Mary and the Priesthood by Pierre Philippe

Biographies / History

The Cure d'Ars Today: St. John Vianney by Father George Rutler, P.P.
The Jessing Legacy (1988) by Msgr. Leonard J. Fick – history of the Josephinum with biographical information about the first 10 rectors.
Life with Karol by Cardinal Dwziski
Msgr John Joseph Jessing: Founder of the Pontifical College Josephinum (1936) by Fathers Leo Miller, Joseph Plumpe, Maurice Hofer, George Undreiner (classic biography about Jessing)
Priestblock 25487 by a survivor of Hitler concentration camp – reviewed in a recent Josephinum magazine by alumnus Don Wampach '68 – it was about his cousin who died a couple weeks before Don was born.
The Spirit of John Joseph Jessing (1999) – editor Msgr. Roger Cooney (trans. Fr. Robert A Gonzalez, with various faculty contributors)
Treasure in Clay by Fulton Sheen (autobiography)

Fiction

The Cardinal by Henry Morton Robinson. A fictional account of the life of a Boston priest from immediately following his ordination in Rome in 1915 to his elevation to Cardinal. The story, amongst other things, presents a good perspective of the Church's relationship with the modern world, as well as presenting a fully integrated view of Catholic life.
Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather - Archbishop Lamy - who had Columbus area roots in his story.
Diary of a Country Priest by George Bernanos
Father Brown mysteries by G. K. Chesterton
The Keys of the Kingdom by A. J. Cronin
The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene
Silence by Shusaku Endo