Mother Teresa

Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint on September 4th, 2016.

Praying with Mother Teresa: Prayers, Insights, and Wisdom of Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Book) Conroy, Susan, Marian Press, 2016. Praying with Mother Teresa brings us into the heart of Mother Teresa's prayer life! Author Susan Conroy, a personal friend of Mother Teresa, gives us a meditative look at Mother Teresa's insights on suffering, joy, peace, humility, and poverty, and brings us right into the prayer life of one of the most beloved women of our time, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Each prayer has been carefully, and prayerfully, selected for use in daily prayer. Mother Teresa gave Susan her blessing and approval to share these words and prayers with others to bring them peace and joy too. (A)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta (Book) Bay, Francine, Magnificat, 2016. Saint Teresa of Calcutta lived a heroic life of charity dedicated to spreading God's love to those poor and most in need. From her earliest days in her native Albania to the day she died in her adopted city of Calcutta, Mother Teresa saw Jesus in the eyes of those who were abandoned, unwanted, and dying. Regardless of a person's race or religion, Saint Teresa of Calcutta reached out with unconditional love to everyone God placed in her path. This lavishly illustrated book for children 9 years and up tells the inspiring story of her life and how this one small, simple woman, with deep faith and love, made a huge impact on the world for good. (P,I,J)

Mother Teresa: The Smile of Calcutta (Book) Grossetete, Charlotte, Magnificat-Ignatius Press, 2016. The great saints devoted their lives to the love of God and of others. Their fascinating life stories will help children discover the great adventure of holiness. This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of such a great saint who lived in our times. Amid the slums of Calcutta, Mother Teresa offered a comforting smile, consoling arms, soothing hands, a kind look that gave dignity, tears of compassion, and the light of Jesus in the darkness of great poverty. She found God in the poorest of the poor; she cherished them and became a mother to all. She is a powerful witness that "whatever we do for one of the least of our brothers, we do for Jesus". (P,I)

New Books in the Library

American and Catholic: Stories of the People who Built the Church (Book) Gollar, C. Walker, Franciscan Media, 2015. The Catholic Church in America was built in the missions of the West, the slums of New York, and the heartland of the Midwest by ordinary believers forging extraordinary lives. Gollar tells their stories, which become the story of the Church. American and Catholic tackles difficult topics such as slavery, the treatment of Native Americans, martyrdom, the role of women, and immigration in a balanced and nuanced way. From the time of the first European explorers to the twenty-first century, it offers glimpses into the long, sometimes painful, and always changing life of the Church in the United States. (S,A)

Keep Your Kids Catholic: Sharing your Faith and Making it Stick (Book) Cardaronella, Marc, Ave Maria Press, 2016. Cardaronella is on a quest to help you fill the gaps by first strengthening your own faith-opening your heart to God, practicing trust, clearing away obstacles to God's grace, and creating regular prayer and study routines at home. He gives you the tools to pass that faith on to your kids and make it stick by teaching you how to pray with your children consistently, about adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the power of the Examen prayer, and how to motivate your kids to be engaged in parish life and Christian outreach. Offers equal shares of inspiration, challenge, and practical advice. Each chapter includes Reflect, Pray, and Live sections to help you integrate the message into family life. (A)
365 Prayers for Catholic Schools and Parish Youth Groups (Book) Tassi, Filomena & Peter, Novalis, 2016. This book is "familiar" in the way it covers a selection of traditional prayers, liturgical year prayers and saints/feast days. The unique feature is the interactive nature of the thematic prayers. The reflection/discussion question that follow each prayer allow the catechist/teacher/leader to connect these prayers to the children's experiences, to get them to think about how these issues affect their daily lives, and to offer an opportunity to unpack some of the lessons that might be gleaned from the prayer that could connect to that day's lesson or to current events that should be discussed in a faith-environment. (A)


We go to Mass (Book) Skinner, Christine Way, Twenty-Third Publications, 2016. With colorful illustrations and clear language, We go to Mass introduces children to the various parts of the Catholic liturgy. From the Introductory Rites to the Concluding Blessing, children will discover the "whys" and "hows" of the prayers, readings, symbols, gestures, and realities of the Mass, so they can follow and better understand what’s happening. We go to Mass can help children see that they are part of God’s family and how the Mass brings them into Jesus’ loving and very real presence. This timeless treasure of a book will be enjoyed over and over by children and adults too! (P,I)

The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán" (Book) Bogart, Jo Ellen, Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2016. A monk leads a simple life. He studies his books late into the evening and searches for truth in their pages. His cat, Pangur, leads a simple life, too, chasing prey in the darkness. As night turns to dawn, Pangur leads his companion to the truth he has been seeking. The White Cat and the Monk is a retelling of the classic Old Irish poem Pangur Bán." With Jo Ellen Bogart's simple and elegant narration and Sydney's Smith's classically inspired images, this contemplative story pays tribute to the wisdom of animals and the wonders of the natural world. (P,I)

New DVD Programs & Movies in the Library

You: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body (DVD Study Program) Ascension Press, 2016. Identity. Gender. Love. Chastity. The world is a difficult place for teens, and it has become increasingly hard for parents and educators to help teens discover the truth about their bodies, their sexuality, and their unique call to love. In an age of “selfies” and egocentrism, You cuts through the noise to present an authentic view of the human person. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals. (S)

All That Remains (DVD) Ignatius Press, 2016. This movie tells the inspiring life story of Nagasaki Atomic bomb survivor and Catholic convert, Dr. Takashi Nagai. A rich, stylistic blend of live action, CGI and archive footage, All That Remains brings to life the amazing story of a forgotten hero in the West—but deeply beloved in Japan—and a pivotal moment in history for a new generation, and takes the viewer on a visceral journey of discovery and revelations. (S,A)

Risen (DVD) Sony, Columbia Pictures, 2016. A Roman tribune who witnessed the execution of is ordered by Pontius Pilate to investigate the disappearance of the crucified man's body, and recover the missing corpse. But the hunt, in which he's aided by an ambitious, though untested junior officer, turns out to have life-altering consequences for the hard-bitten soldier. Designed to have broad appeal, this biblical epic uses its protagonist's cynicism to clear a path for nonbelievers into the story of the Resurrection. Fine acting, lavish settings and the sense of humor frequently evident in writer-director Kevin Reynolds' script all combine for an unusually effective big-screen treatment of the origins of Christianity. Despite grim scenes of armed conflict and crucifixion, the faith-bolstering benefits of the film will likely sway the parents of mature teens in its favor. Some harsh but mostly bloodless violence, a few disturbing images. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. (S,A)

The Good Dinosaur (DVD) Disney/Pixar, 2016. This comedy-adventure makes wholesome and hilarious entertainment for the entire family. Director and co-writer Peter Sohn gleefully reworks history in proposing that the asteroid which may have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs never happened. Instead, they evolved in an anthropomorphic fashion, talking and acting just like humans. A young Apatosaurus is separated from his family, and must find his way home, with only a feral Neanderthal as his companion. A few intense moments may upset the very youngest viewers, but all ages will be inspired as our plucky hero rises to his challenges. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. (P,I)