

Recommended Reading Selections for the Summer (or anytime!)

These suggestions were received from our diocesan brothers and are presented in no particular order. Thank you to all who responded with these great titles. Any provided descriptions are from the priest respondent.

Sincerely, John Lavorgna

Title: Things Worth Dying For: Thoughts on Life Worth Living
Author: Most Reverend Charles Chaput

Title: Rekindle the Gift of God: A Handbook for Priestly Life
Author: Roch A Kereszty

Recommended by my spiritual director, this is probably the most recent attempt at providing a comprehensive spiritual companion for the diocesan priesthood.

Title: Priestly Fatherhood: Treasure in Earthen Vessels
Author: Jacques Philippe

Another recent work, this renowned spiritual master now sets his focus on the vocation of the priesthood in general.

Title: Why Preach: Encountering Christ in God's Word
Author: Peter John Cameron

A highly recommended companion for preachers both young and old.

Title: Habits and Holiness: Ethics, Theology, and Biopsychology
Author: Ezra Sullivan

A great theological exploration of the Thomistic understanding of habit, virtue, vice, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Very helpful for understanding the root of character change and growth.

Title: Through Wind and Waves: On Being a Spiritual Guide
Author: Francis Fernandez-Carvajal

An introduction to the practice of spiritual direction and practical advice for directors.

Title: Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World
Author: Cal Newport

An encouragement to unplugging in a techno-centric world to reclaim peace of mind and freedom in one's interpersonal interactions. Very helpful for priests today who are more and more connected through phone, email, texts, and social media.

Title: Teaching and Learning the Love of God: Being a Priest Today
Author: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Ignatius Press, 2017)

A collection of Ratzinger's articles, lectures and sermons from many decades about the priesthood and the mission of those Jesus calls "friends" in the world today. With a preface by Pope Francis.

Title: "The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise"
Author: Robert Cardinal Sarah (Ignatius Press, 2017)

A series of reflections on the need for silence (which is not merely lack of noise) to develop the interior life. A great work to deepen one's prayer life.

Title: Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ
Author: Edward Sri (Ignatius Press, 2018)

A brief, yet compelling spiritual invitation to truly be loved and changed by Our Lord Jesus, and how that encounter shapes our life of discipleship.