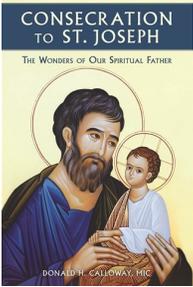
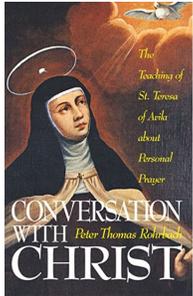


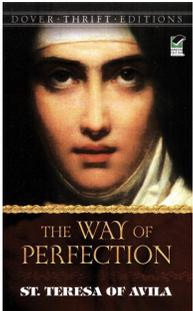
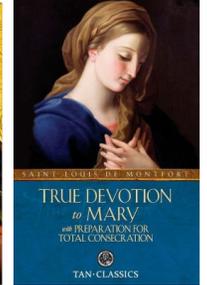
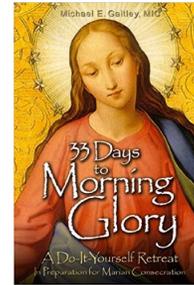
Book Recommendations for Lent



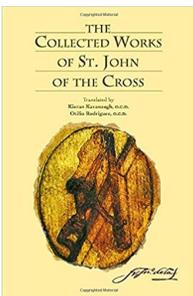
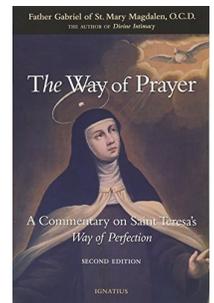
For those wishing to consecrate themselves to St. Joseph in this Holy Year dedicated to his honor, there is still time to order a book for your use. The 33 day preparation period begins on February 15th, which is the Monday before Ash Wednesday. Those participating will consecrate themselves on March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, which is on a Friday. (The discipline of fasting and abstinence does not apply on solemnities that fall on a Friday...thank you St. Joseph!) "33 Days to Morning Glory" is a book I have used a few times and thoroughly enjoy. It takes the structure of the traditional method proposed by St. Louis de Montfort and incorporates the wisdom of contemporary saints such as St. Maximian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Pope John Paul II. Preparation to consecrate or renew your consecration to Mary begins on Saturday, April 10th and concludes on May 13th, the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima. If you have yet to make this preparation and consecration, please consider doing so this year. "True Devotion to Mary" contains the traditional preparation method of St. Louis de Montfort.



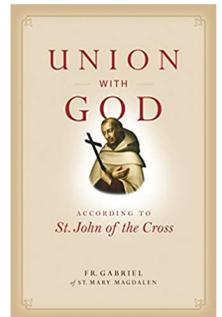
This book by Fr. Rohrbach is unparalleled in its practicality in presenting the prayer of meditation and conversation with Christ according to the doctrine of St. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church, and teacher of Christian prayer. It is a slim volume of 140 pages and is to be read over and over. Lent is a great time to learn how to pray as we ought, and to fine tune the life of prayer that we already practice in order to deepen our intimacy with Jesus Christ. This book will not disappoint.



After reading "Conversation" by Fr. Rohrbach you may want to venture more deeply into the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila. A good place to start is always "The Way of Perfection." This work of the saint presents her basic doctrine and then moves into a fairly detailed commentary on the prayer of the Our Father. The style of writing of a 16th century Spanish Carmelite nun may prove challenging to some as she does not write in a systematic way, though her progression of thought is beyond reproach and clearly linear. As a companion to her original work you may want to read "The Way of Prayer" by Fr. Gabriel of Mary Magdalene. This book is a commentary on St. Teresa's work and presents it in an easily understood and organized way. The two go hand in hand.



It would be horribly remiss not to mention St. Teresa of Avila's companion in the Carmelite reform, St. John of the Cross, and spiritual director to her nuns. St. John of the Cross is not the easiest read, but he is systematic. "The Living Flame of Love" is a commentary on a poem he wrote by the same title, and was prepared for a lay woman of noble birth to whom he gave spiritual direction. "The Living Flame of Love" is only available on Kindle, but it is included in the collected works volume, which I would recommend as well. Having said all of that, Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalene comes to our rescue with "Union With God" in order to tell us what St. John of the Cross meant. "Union With God" is excellent" and offers another perspective on St. Teresa of Avila's doctrine.



Perennials

