

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

CHURCH HISTORY

Ecclesiastical History, by Eusebius. Various publishers. A good, illustrated modern translation of this early fourth century work is *EUSEBIUS The Church history*, translated by Paul L. Maier and published by Kregel Publications. This Church history by Eusebius, a fourth century bishop of Caesarea in Roman Palestine, begins with Jesus of Nazareth and ends with Constantine the Great, the first Christian Roman Emperor in the early fourth century. There is no book more important for understanding the early history of the Church.

The Orthodox Church, by Timothy (Kallistos) Ware, published by Penguin. Be sure to read the latest edition of this popular book first published in 1963. A convert from Anglicanism, in 1982 he was consecrated titular Bishop of Diokleia and appointed assistant bishop in Great Britain. From 1966 to 2001 he was Spaulding Lecturer in Eastern Orthodox Studies at the University of Oxford. In part One of this book Bishop Kallistos describes the history of the Orthodox Church. In part Two he explains the beliefs, worship and organization of the Orthodox Church. This is the best single introduction to the Orthodox Church in print.

A History of the English Church and People, by St. Bede the Venerable, published by Penguin. This important book was written by the Venerable Bede in AD 731. Bede's inspiring *History of the English Church and People* is a history of Celtic Britain and Saxon England. The translator, Leo Sherley-Price writes in the introduction, "we realize even more clearly that the past is not dead and done with, but a force to be reckoned with, silently moulding the present and future." How right he was! As St. John of San Francisco (d. 1966) said, "Never, never, never let anyone tell you that, in order to be Orthodox, you must be Eastern. The West was fully Orthodox for a thousand years..." St. Bede will introduce you to Western Orthodoxy in the British Isles, and inspire you to recover your heritage and restore Orthodoxy in the West.

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

The Orthodox Way, Revised Edition, by Bishop Kallistos Ware, published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press. This book is an introduction to the doctrine, worship and life of Orthodox Christians. It covers many of the fundamental issues of theology: God as hidden yet revealed; the problem of evil; the nature of salvation; the meaning of faith; prayer; and death and what lies beyond. Doctrinal issues are not presented as dry, abstract propositions for theological debate, but as affecting the whole of the Christian life. A powerful, enlightening and uplifting book.

God and You: Person to Person, by Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris, published by Light and Life Publishing. This important book by the popular Orthodox writer, Fr. Anthony Coniaris, is a guide to “Developing a Daily Personal relationship with Jesus.” The goal of this book is to bring readers into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ on a “person to person” basis. Fr. Stanley S. Harakas says, “My advice - put it at the top of your reading list.”

Knowing God, Life’s Highest Purpose and Joy, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, published by Light and Life Publishing. St. Isaac the Syrian said, “There is nothing that can be likened to the sweetness of the knowledge of God.” This book will take Christians beyond merely knowing *about* God and the Faith, and will help them to come to *know* God.

GROWING DEEPER IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Unseen Warfare, as edited by Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain and revised by Theophan the Recluse, published by St. Vladimir’s seminary Press. “This spiritual classic was written by Lorenzo Scupoli, a sixteenth century Venetian priest. Immensely popular in its own day, it was ranked by Francis de Sales with the *Imitation of Christ*. In the general rapport between Western and Eastern Christendom, it reached [St.] Nicodemus of Mount Athos and later, in the nineteenth century, [St.] Theophan the recluse, both of whom edited and translated the work. Rich in its references to the teachings of the saints and Fathers, *Unseen Warfare* combines the insights of West and East... “ (From the back cover). This book is a must read!

The Way of a Pilgrim and the Pilgrim Continues His Way, various publishers. This book is a spiritual classic. Follow this anonymous nineteenth century Russian pilgrim as he takes you across the vast land of Holy Russia in search of an answer to one compelling question: How does one pray without ceasing? Finally, share in his deep joy when his search turns up an ancient treasure: the Jesus Prayer, handed down by untold generations of Orthodox Christians. The ancient words from the Christian past become alive in his joyful heart. As they came alive for him, they can come alive for us also. This is a book that changes lives, and it can change yours!