

## Catholic Reading List: The Traditional Top Forty

\*SCALE: 1 - 5 (least to most)

TITLE	AUTHOR	DESCRIPTION	*RECOMMENDED	*ACCESSIBLE
<b>Heresy of Formlessness</b>	Martin Mosebach	In eloquent prose, Mosebach gives a narrative take on the crisis with deeply theological import; an excellent "first read" for those looking to start in this vein.	*5	5
<b>Phoenix from the Ashes: The Making, Unmaking, and Restoration of Catholic Tradition</b>	Henry Sire	Excellent review of various historical crisis periods in the Church - a very helpful context for understanding the contemporary situation.	*5	5
<b>Noble Beauty, Transcendent Holiness: Why the Modern Age Needs the Mass of Ages</b>	Peter Kwasniewski	Approachable and engaging, with excellent apparatus for further study, from a theologian with a clear love of Christ, the Church, and the work of evangelization	*5	5
<b>The Popes Against Modern Errors: 16 Papal Documents</b>	Anthony J. Mioni	Helpful compilation of key magisterial documents leading up to the Second Vatican Council, warning against modern errors. Enlightening.	5	3
<b>The Binding Force of Tradition</b>	Chad Ripperger	The Ripperger "Trilogy" - Clear explanations of the nature of Sacred Tradition and magisterial authority.	5	5
<b>The Great Façade: The Regime of Novelty in the Catholic Church from Vatican II to the Francis Revolution</b>	Ferrara, Woods, Rao	If you can get past the sardonic and occasionally hypercritical tone, you have one of the more important catalogues of the postconciliar errors.	5	4
<b>Nothing Superfluous</b>	James W. Jackson	Unpacks the many signs and symbols of the Latin Mass. Leaves one a bit breathless and delighted at the richness of our Catholic liturgical heritage.	5	5
<b>The Sources of Catholic Dogma (1957 Edition)</b>	Heinrich Denzinger	Definitive "sourcebook" of magisterial excerpts on matters of Faith and morals. Index of subjects is worth the price of admission.	5	1
<b>The Banished Heart: Origins of Heteropraxis in the Catholic Church</b>	Geoffrey Hull	Incisive and deeply researched, illuminating far more than the immediate surround of the Vatican II fallout. Good perspective on Eastern Catholicism as well.	4	3
<b>The Latin Mass Explained</b>	George J. Moorman, R. Michael Schmitz	Just like it sounds; a good expo on the traditional rite.	4	5
<b>Divine Intimacy</b>	Fr. Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.	Treasury of daily catecheses and spiritual meditations following the traditional liturgical calendar. A classic - beautiful and deeply edifying.	4	4
<b>Pope John's Council</b>	Michael Davies	The Michael Davies "Trilogy" - a key study.	4	4
<b>Pope Paul's New Mass</b>	Michael Davies	The Michael Davies "Trilogy" - a key study.	4	4
<b>Cranmer's Godly Order: The Destruction of Catholicism Through Liturgical Change</b>	Michael Davies	The Michael Davies "Trilogy" - a key study.	4	4
<b>The Catholic Dogma: "Extra Ecclesiam Nullus omnino Salvatur"</b>	Michael Muller	One of the best treatments of a central dogma of the Faith - a dogma widely undermined after Vatican II.	4	3
<b>The Second Vatican Council - An Unwritten Story</b>	Professor Roberto deMattei, Michael M. Miller	Picks up where Wiltgen's <i>The Rhine Flows Into the Tiber</i> left off, giving further insight into the Vatican II backstory and making more sense of the present.	4	4
<b>In Sinu Jesu: When Heart Speaks to Heart: The Journal of a Priest at Prayer</b>	A Benedictine Monk	A rich and timely spiritual and devotional read.	3	5
<b>The Organic Development of the Liturgy: The Principles of Liturgical Reform and Their Relation to the Twentieth-Century Liturgical Movement Prior to the Second Vatican Council</b>	Alcuin Reid	Deeply theological and historical work examining the nature of organic development in Catholic Liturgy as guided by the Holy Spirit over centuries - shows why the Novus Ordo is not an organic development.	3	2
<b>Magisterial Authority</b>	Chad Ripperger	The Ripperger "Trilogy" - Clear explanations of the nature of Sacred Tradition and magisterial authority.	3	5
<b>Catechism of the Crisis in the Church</b>	Matthias Gaudron	Question-and-answer format on the current crisis.	3	4
<b>Joseph Ratzinger-Collected Works: Theology of the Liturgy</b>	Joseph Ratzinger	From his liberal-leaning theological beginnings as a young priest to his mysterious resignation as Pope Benedict XVI, Joseph Ratzinger will doubtless be remembered as one of the more enigmatic figures in papal history. Regardless, his contribution to the recovery of sacred liturgy is unmistakable, and his thought well worth reading on the subject.	3	3
<b>Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma</b>	Ludwig Ott	The classic course on Catholic dogmatic theology. Another goldmine of authentic doctrine.	3	1
<b>The Inside Story of Vatican II (formerly The Rhine Flows into the Tiber)</b>	Ralph Wiltgen	The groundbreaking reporter's look into the inner-workings of the Council.	3	5
<b>Signs of the Holy One: Liturgy, Ritual, and Expression of the Sacred</b>	Uwe Michael Lang	The Lang "Trilogy" - the nature and purpose of liturgy itself, and how it achieves what it is via signification.	3	3
<b>The Ottaviani Intervention: Short Critical Study of the New Order of Mass</b>	Alfredo C. Ottaviani	This study was originally part of a last-ditch effort by then-Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to delay the implementation of the Novus Ordo.	2	2
<b>Sacred Signs</b>	Romano Guardini, Peter Kwasniewski	One of the best works toward authentic liturgical renewal prior to the Council: unpacking the signs and symbols with simplicity and love.	2	5
<b>Topics on Tradition</b>	Chad Ripperger	The Ripperger "Trilogy" - Clear explanations of the nature of Sacred Tradition and magisterial authority.	2	4
<b>Liberalism Is A Sin</b>	Felix Sarda y Salvany, Condé B. Pallen	A read that may leave you weeping at how things have progressed since its publication in 1899. Good perspective.	2	4
<b>The Voice of the Church at Prayer: Reflections on Liturgy and Language</b>	Uwe Michael Lang	The Lang "Trilogy" - the importance of language in liturgy, looks at use of Latin or vernacular.	2	3
<b>Turning Towards the Lord</b>	Uwe Michael Lang	The Lang "Trilogy" - the importance of the direction of liturgical prayer: towards the Lord or the people.	2	3
<b>Looking at the Liturgy</b>	Aidan Nichols	Keen scholarly assessment of the shortcomings of liturgical reform via history, sociology and culture.	2	3
<b>The Catholic Church and Salvation</b>	Joseph Clifford Fenton	Another great treatment of a central dogma of the Faith.	2	4
<b>The Canons and Decrees of the Council Of Trent</b>	J.H. Schroeder	Clear dogmatic pronouncements from one of the most significant events in Church history	1	3
<b>The Sincere Christian Instructed In The Faith Of Christ From The Written Word</b>	George Hay	Bishop Hay's classic exposition of the Faith.	1	4
<b>The Desolate City: Revolution in the Catholic Church</b>	Anne Roche Muggidge	A well-informed personal critique of the postconciliar fallout written in 1986 by a frustrated but hopeful laywoman.	1	5
<b>Charitable Anathema</b>	Dietrich Von Hildebrand	The Von Hildebrand "Trilogy" - a standby.	1	4
<b>The Devastated Vineyard</b>	Dietrich Von Hildebrand	The Von Hildebrand "Trilogy" - a standby.	1	4
<b>Trojan Horse in the City of God: The Catholic Crisis Explained</b>	Dietrich Von Hildebrand	The Von Hildebrand "Trilogy" - a standby.	1	4
<b>Iota Unum: A Study of Changes in the Catholic Church in the Twentieth Century</b>	Romano Amerio	A fixture in any "traditional Catholic" library.	1	4
<b>The Peasant of the Garonne: An Old Layman Questions Himself about the Present Time</b>	Jacques Maritain	A shocker at its publication, Maritain turns to rebuke the "new philosophy" and hunger for novelty which he saw endangering the roots of Christian faith and worship.	1	4