



The Best and the Brightest

"Everwhere have I sought rest and found it not, except sitting apart in a nook with a little book." – Thomas à Kempis



Each fall the Mindszenty Report publishes a valuable list of recommended books to our readers. Most of these books can be found in the local bookstore, library or ordered online.

FAITH

FROM COMBAT TO CAMELOT TO KATRINA by Archbishop Philip Hannan (OSV 2010) Service to God and his fellow man has been the hallmark of the long career of Archbishop Hannan. Now 97 years old, the adventurous prelate made his humble mark on many of the pivotal events of the 20th century, including World War II, the Kennedy administration, Vatican II, civil rights, and the destruction of Katrina. His life is a sterling example to what one can do when open to the will and the grace of God.

THOMAS AQUINAS: SPIRITUAL MASTER by Robert Barron (Crossword 2008) Many consider St. Thomas Aquinas the greatest of all theologians. Yet modernists have complained that his seemingly impersonal style does not resonate well in a world that minimizes the doctrinal and rational appeal of orthodoxy. Father Barron's book is a heroic attempt to return St. Thomas' scholasticism to its premier position by focusing on his understanding of the mystical life as it animates his teachings on Jesus Christ, creation, God's nature and the call to ecstasy. As Barron says *once the God center has been established in one's life, one can, as Augustine implied, do as one wills, singing, playing, relating, trading, entering into relationships---all for the glory of God.*

SAINT PAUL by Pope Benedict XVI (Ignatius 2009) In this short biography of St. Paul, the pope explores the Pauline legacy which has provided so much spiritual sustenance to the Church's teachings and religious traditions. Benedict follows the course of the Apostle's life through his missionary journeys, his relationship with the other apostles such as St. Peter and St. James and his own martyrdom in Rome. The book serves as a compendium for those interested in some of the current questions of the faith, such as Paul's personal connection with Jesus, the charge that he distorted Jesus' teachings, the differences between Catholics and Protestants

regarding salvation and the roles of faith and works in the Christian life and much more.

WHAT HAPPENED TO NOTRE DAME by Charles Rice (St. Augustine Press 2009) If any one institution serves as a microcosm of what has happened to Catholic higher education it has to be Notre Dame. A professor emeritus of their law school, Rice uses the school's invitation to President Barack Obama to speak at their May 17, 2009 commencement ostensibly to explore the rift within Catholic education between an intellectual elite and the traditional Catholic faithful.

PARENTING WITH PRAYER by Mary Ann Kuharski (OSV 1993) Mary Ann Kuharski is a wife and mother of 13 children, including six adopted children of mixed races with special needs. Her book, which has been reprinted and updated, underscores the truth of the old adage that the family that prays together stays together. It offers a concise guide as to how to incorporate an active prayer life with one's family. From the Commandments to Sacred Scriptures, the author offers insights and inspirational ways to teach and integrate the Catholic faith into everyday life.

HISTORY

10 BOOKS EVERY CONSERVATIVE MUST READ, PLUS FOUR NOT TO MISS AND ONE IMPOSTOR by Benjamin Wiker (Regnery 2010) If there were only time to read one book this year, Wiker's book should be that book. *10 Books* is more than a narrative on classic books---it is a virtual library in itself. The author has arguably culled all the great books for conservatives that collectively form a canon of traditional thought that includes the usual apologists for Christianity such as Chesterton, Belloc and Lewis. To his credit Wiker goes deeper with the inclusion of Tolkien, De Tocqueville and Eric Voegelin's classic, *The New Science of Politics*. At first glance his selection of

Shakespeare is surprising until one reads the inner working of the bard's *The Tempest*. Wiker also debunks any claim that atheist Ayn Rand ever was a conservative pantheon.

THAT'S NO ANGRY MOB, THAT'S MY MOM: TEAM OBAMA'S ASSAULT ON TEA-PARTY, TALK RADIO AMERICANS by Michael Graham (Regnery 2010) Radio talk show host; Michael Graham's book explores the modern phenomenon of the *Tea Party Movement*. The author effectively dispels the many false charges of racism, violence and even terrorism that have been directed toward the movement. Graham rallied to the defense of the movement because his mother is a member. Graham knows his mother is no radical and certainly not a terrorist. She was just one of millions of dedicated Americans who helped to foment a reaction against the tyranny of the Obama regime, not unlike their 18th century forebears.

SPIES IN THE VATICAN; THE SOVIET UNION'S COLD WAR AGAINST THE CATHOLIC CHURCH by John Koehler (Pegasus Books 2009) It will not come as a surprise to many Catholics that the Soviet Union waged an espionage battle against the Church that was an adjunct to the Russians' Cold War with the West. Using documents and transcripts never before seen, the journalist and former army intelligence officer weaves an exciting tale of suspense and intrigue that surpasses even the novels of John le Carre. Koehler paints a vivid picture of the Soviet network of spies and sleeper agents. He reveals that many of these spies were monks and Vatican secretaries from the Vatican underworld. Thanks to Pope John Paul II and the Polish Catholic Solidarity movement, the KGB's efforts to purge the Soviet Union of its subversive Catholic influence backfired on them and inevitably lead to the collapse of the Soviet edifice in 1991.

THE SAINT AND THE SULTAN: THE CRUSADES, ISLAM AND FRANCIS OF ASSISI'S MISSION OF PEACE by Paul Moses (Doubleday 2009) St. Francis has long been a favorite of Catholics who strongly favor the Church's social mission to the poor. What has been absent from a historical understanding of St. Francis' religion has been his unwavering commitment to peace. During the Fifth Crusade in 1219, he journeyed to Egypt for an audience with their sultan, Malik al-Kamil, where they exchanged ideas on war, peace and their respective faiths. His valiant attempt to reconcile the West with the Middle East in the 13th century has special relevance to the modern world that has violently revived the religious conflicts of that era. The author's rendition holds the promise for Christians and Muslims today that there is always hope for the end to conflict as long as there are those who will seek it.

7 EVENTS THAT MADE AMERICA AMERICA AND PROVED THAT THE FOUNDING FATHERS WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG by Larry Schweikart (Sentinel 2010) Most students know the importance of Gettysburg, Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima. The author argues that there are other

significant events that warrant the similar historical consideration, such as the Dred Scott decision, the Johnstown's Flood and President Eisenhower's heart attack. Each of his seven events reveals a profound yet obscure truth about American life not apparent to the untrained eye. To Schweikart his seven seminal events serve as a microcosm of an evolution of government that currently threatens the individual liberties and private enterprise that has made America.

APPETITE FOR AMERICA: HOW VISIONARY BUSINESSMAN FRED HARVEY BUILT A RAILROAD HOSPITALITY EMPIRE by Stephen Fries (Bantam Books 2010) This delightful book introduces a new generation to Fred Harvey who opened many trackside restaurants serving quality food, even bringing fresh meat and vegetables to dusty railroad towns. He arguably did more to tame the Wild West than all the sheriffs combined. He originated the first large-scale female workforce in America with the iconic Harvey Girls who brought service, civility and prospective wives to many a ruffian cowboy town. The Fred Harvey restaurants, the Southwest and the Western Railroad routes all rose to prominence together, and this book is history as it should be told with colorful characters and fascinating historical tidbits.

GOVERNMENT

THE MANCHURIAN PRESIDENT: BARACK OBAMA'S TIES TO COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND OTHER ANTI-AMERICAN EXTREMISTS by Aaron Klein (WND Books 2010) Books about the Obama regime have become a cottage industry. *Newsweek's* Aaron Klein's fair and balanced assessment of President Obama's regime explores all the charges, claims, scandals and promises with a journalist's curiosity and precision. He exposes the president's ACORN connection, as well as the truth about his birth certificate, his association with Islam, and his long-time ties to an anti-American fringe. No other Obama book packs the reasonable punch that this thinking man's analysis of the first two years of the Obama regime.

ARCHITECTS OF RUIN: HOW BIG GOVERNMENT LIBERALS WRECKED THE GLOBAL ECONOMY---AND HOW THEY WILL DO IT AGAIN IF NO ONE STOPS THEM by Peter Schweizer (Harper 2009) Since his inauguration in 2009 *Just blame Bush* has been President Obama's constant excuse for America's economic meltdown. Schweizer clearly refutes this scurrilous charge that Republican free market policies caused the worst economic scenario since the 1930s. To the contrary it was the left's political agenda that pushed the toxic notion that housing was a *right* of all Americans and brought about the disastrous policies that removed the safeguards that would have prevented the collapse. *Architects* points the finger squarely at an impressive list of culprits which includes the late Ted Kennedy, Barney Frank, Christopher Dodd, Jesse Jackson and ACORN.

AMERICA FOR SALE: FIGHTING THE NEW WORLD ORDER, SURVIVING A GLOBAL DEPRESSION AND PRESERVING USA SOVEREIGNTY by Jerome Corsi (Threshold Editions 2009) Corsi blows the whistle on the deliberate ravaging of the American middle class by the policies of the Obama regime. The president has circumvented the Constitution at every opportunity and in the process saddled the nation with trillions of debt that will seriously limit the nation's sovereignty in the generations to come. Corsi warns that the United States is fast on its way to becoming a European Union-type North American Common Market in a one-world government. The author provides a measure of hope with his practical strategies for reversing this globalist trend.

LIES THE GOVERNMENT TOLD YOU: MYTH, POWER, AND DECEPTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY by Judge Andrew Napolitano (Thomas Nelson 2010) Politicians have become so adept at lying that mendacity has become a political virtue. Judge Napolitano traces the deterioration of American freedom throughout American history with an attention to detail that marked his tenure as a judge. He laments the fact that America's government is more protective of its own power than its obligations to preserve its citizens' individual liberties as expressed in the country's Constitution. The judge offers a workable blueprint to salvage America's freedoms and restore the government to its traditional role as protector of American freedom.

CULTURE

DISMANTLING AMERICA by Thomas Sowell (Basic Books 2010) Like most conservatives Thomas Sowell is deeply concerned with the state of American life and culture. *Dismantling* is a broad collection of his recent columns, which covers most of the vital political, economic and cultural issues of the day. Despite his general approach there is a constant theme throughout the volume -- the decline of values and institutions that have sustained the beauty and wonder of American life for over 200 years. Sowell rightfully contends that this decline has been more than accidental erosion, but one fomented by an intellectual elite whose enlightened wisdom compels them to undermine the traditions and will of the American people.

POPE BENEDICT XVI AND THE SEXUAL ABUSE CRISIS; WORKING FOR REFORM AND RENEWAL by Gregory Erlandson and Matthew Bunson (OSV 2010) This concise and factual book puts the Church's sex scandal in its proper social context. It is one of the few sources that readily admit that homosexuality and not pedophilia has been central to this disheartening scandal. Their book provides a necessary defense of Pope Benedict XVI who has been unjustly caught in the maelstrom of media opinion. The authors also statistically demonstrate that Catholic priests are no more likely to be sex offenders than their counterparts in other denominations. While this is no consolation for the thousands of abuse victims, it does beg the question as to why ONLY the Church has been singled out for this criminal behavior?

THE CLOSING OF THE MUSLIM MIND: HOW INTELLECTUAL SUICIDE CREATED THE MODERN ISLAMIST CRISIS by Robert Reilly (ISI Books 2010) Since 9/11 the world has looked to the Middle East with mixed emotions. Reilly clearly explains the intent, motivations and agenda of Islam with regard to the United States. Foreign-policy expert Robert Reilly's book deftly explains the historical roots of this pivotal struggle between the West and the Islamic world. The author argues that in the historic battle over reason, Islamic irrationality won, and the world is suffering as a result. Terrorism has been the most obvious outcome of this struggle but Reilly argues that its pathology runs much deeper. His book is a warning cry for the U.S. to forget about diversity and political correctness and arm itself with the historical truth.

THE GODLESS DELUSION: A CATHOLIC CHALLENGE TO MODERN ATHEISM by Patrick Madrid and Kenneth Hensley (OSV 2010) The authors present an acute analysis of the *new atheism*, which is notable because of its more aggressive style in attacking religion. The Church's sex scandals and the decline of faith in organized religion have energized a new level of atheistic proselytism in mass media, schools and books. In light of this a spirited defense of the faith is provided against these assaults with an apologetical fervor that promises to knock the *new atheists* back on their heels. The book wages a full-scale assault on the tallest turret of the new atheists' stronghold — their claim to moral and rational superiority. The authors adroitly lay waste to this arrogant stronghold and easily recapture the high ground for Christ.

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN; THE GLOBAL BATTLE OVER GOD, TRUTH AND POWER by Melanie Phillips (Encounter 2010) In an age that deifies reason, Phillips wonders why so many people have joined strange cults, adopted witchcraft and paganism and supported such anti-intellectual ideas as man-made global warming. Her answer focuses on the West's discard of its religious heritage. As a result, many have replaced reason and truth with ideology and bigotry. This has caused *a mass derangement that has turned all traditional ideas of right and wrong, victim and aggressor on their heads*. While Muslims are successfully returning the world to the 7th century, the West seems unable to defend its religious and intellectual traditions against their aggressive onslaught. As Phillips asserts this is a formula for cultural suicide.

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Book recommendations are prepared by Elaine Middendorf, Radio Producer of Dangers of Apathy and William A. Borst, Ph.D., Feature Editor.

LaborDay

Labor Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the first Monday in September. The first Labor Day in the United States was celebrated on September 5, 1882 in New York City. It became a federal holiday in 1894, when, following the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and the U.S. Marshals during the Pullman Strike, President Grover Cleveland put reconciliation with the labor movement as a top political priority. Fearing further conflict, legislation making Labor Day a national holiday was rushed through Congress unanimously and signed into law a mere six days after the end of the strike. The September date was chosen as Cleveland was concerned that aligning an American labor holiday with existing international May Day celebrations would stir up negative emotions. All 50 U.S. states have made Labor Day a state holiday.

Traditionally, Labor Day is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of the summer. The holiday is often regarded as a day of rest and parties. Speeches or political demonstrations are more low-key than May 1 Labor Day celebrations in most countries, although events held by labor organizations often feature political themes and appearances by candidates for office, especially in election years. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports and public art events. Families with school-age children take it as the last chance to travel before the end of summer recess. Similarly, some teenagers and young adults view it as the last weekend for parties before returning to school, although school starting times now vary.

Mindszenty Report Reprints

A FIRE IN THE THEATER: HATE SPEECH, ELENA KAGAN AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT dissects President Obama's Marxist attack on a major constitutional safeguard for American liberty, freedom of speech. Political correctness, revolutionary tolerance, and hate speech are powerful tools used to make Americans fearful of what they say, write and think. The new Supreme Court Judge Elena Kagan's leftist mindset and her views on the 1st Amendment portend future worrisome court decisions. Ask for 8/10

THE MAD HATTERS: THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN POLITICS a comparison of the origin and goals of today's Tea Party movement to the historical and revolutionary beginnings of the 1773 Boston Tea Party. The hypocrisy and deceit of present-day political leaders taking from one segment of the population to give to others is morally wrong. Ask for 7/10

GREEN ACRES The elitism of the Obama regime may irretrievably change the country into a mirror of its modern European forbears unless it is stopped at the ballot box. Americans must shake out of their doldrums and send the liberal elite back to Hooterville where they belong. Ask for 6/10

1 copy	\$.50	100 copies	\$20.00
20 copies	\$5.00	500 copies	\$85.00
50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00

Louisville Forum 2010

The Church Teaches Forum held in Louisville, KY last month was a resounding success with 350 in attendance. As co-sponsor of the Forum, CMF had an attractive display, designed and cheerfully staffed by Carol Martens and Peggy Stewart. CMF Reports, books pamphlets and beautiful prayer cards were speedily taken.

The talks by Archbishop Raymond Burke, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Bishop James Timlin, Rev Roger Arnsparger and Rev. Edmund McCaffrey were eloquent, orthodox, good-humored, encouraging and were very well-received by the attentive audience.

Do You Know...

...that a federal law makes it mandatory for all schools to teach about the U.S. Constitution on Constitution Day, September 17? This is an opportunity for all of us to re-acquaint ourselves with this unique and important document. A DVD entitled **A More Perfect Union: America Becomes A Nation**, a professional re-enactment of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, is available from National Center for Constitutional Studies, 37777 W. Juniper Rd., Malta, ID 83342 or call 1-800-388-4512 or order online at www.nccs.net for \$19.95 plus shipping. Teacher discounts—contact NCCS for further information.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

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