



A Banquet for Thought

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested. ~Francis Bacon~

Once again we present our annual Booklist which we hope will provide information, inspiration and motivation. Consider purchases as gifts to students, high school/college libraries, clergy, opinion molders, etc. You can request a book from your library and if it is not available, the library may order it for you. CMF does NOT stock and sell these books. Although we recommend these books, we cannot vouch for every word, chapter or verse!

FAITH

POPE FRANCIS ON HEAVEN AND EARTH: ON FAITH, FAMILY AND THE CHURCH IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY by Jorge Bergoglio and Abraham Skorka (Image, 2013). With a sublime taste of the intimate flavor of the 1981 classic film *My Dinner with Andre*, Pope Francis is an intimate conversation between the man destined to be a pope and an Argentine rabbi. The two religious men bridge the gap between their religious beliefs in a detailed interfaith dialogue that runs the theological and worldly gamut of issues from fundamentalism, atheism, abortion, homosexuality and euthanasia to same-sex marriage, capitalism and communism.

MY SISTERS THE SAINTS: A SPIRITUAL MEMOIR by Colleen Carroll Campbell (Random House, 2012). *My Sisters* fords the wide stream that separates human beings from the mystery of the Incarnation by profiling people who have transcended their fallen natures in emulation of Jesus Christ. The author reminds her readers that one never has to face the vicissitudes of life alone. Campbell recounts her personal struggles as an author, journalist, cultural commentator, wife and mother. She skillfully weaves her spiritual odyssey with the inspirational lives of six magnificent women who profoundly influenced her life: Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, Faustina of Poland, Edith Stein of Germany, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Mary of Nazareth. The richness of their awe-inspiring lives amid temptations and dark nights of the soul should resonate in the heart of every woman frustrated by a debased American culture.

EVANGELICAL CATHOLICISM: DEEP REFORM IN THE 21ST-CENTURY CHURCH by George Weigel (Basic Books, 2013). The author predicts that the

Catholic Church is on a threshold of a bold new era in its 2,000-year history. He contends that as the curtain has fallen on the Church as defined by the Counter-Reformation of the 16th century, a new curtain is rising on the 21st century of Evangelism, centered on the renewal inspired by the Second Vatican Council and given compelling expression by Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. This Gospel-centered Evangelism promises to make missionaries of all Catholics, sending them into the secular wilderness of spiritual malaise, sinfulness and despair.

JESUS OF NAZARETH: THE INFANCY NARRATIVE by Pope Benedict XVI (Ignatius, 2012). This is the third and final volume of Pope Benedict's history of the life of Jesus. The last part of his trilogy details the stories of His infancy and boyhood. The Pope emeritus has created a work that gives the reader a window on the true historical Jesus.

HISTORY

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: FROM THE APOSTOLIC AGE TO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM by James Hitchcock (Ignatius, 2012). The Catholic Church is the longest-enduring institution in the world. The Church claims Christ as her founder, and in spite of heresy within and hostility from without, she remains the steadfast guardian of belief in His life, death and resurrection. Former St. Louis University Professor James Hitchcock writes her history of faith, dissent and redemption with a precision and honesty that illuminate her coherent body of doctrine in a compelling manner.

AMERICAN CHURCH: THE REMARKABLE RISE, METEORIC FALL AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA by Russell Shaw

(Ignatius, 2013), Pb. Veteran Catholic writer Russell Shaw takes a critical look at the uncertain future of the Catholic Church in America. He concludes that the assimilation of millions of immigrants into American culture has threatened the Catholic identity of millions of faithful. He documents this process over two centuries, underscoring Pope Leo XIII's 1899 condemnation of Americanism. Shaw's book should shake the rafters of debate from the chanceries to the ordinary pews for years to come.

TRENT: WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COUNCIL by John O'Malley (Belknap Harvard, 2013). Jesuit Father O'Malley recreates the salient events and issues of the 18-year-long council that confused, distracted and divided several Holy Roman emperors, five popes, and the kings and queens of France. Father O'Malley explores many of the council's historic decisions on Protestant heresies, especially Lutheranism, salvation, scripture and tradition, original sin, justification, sacraments, the Eucharist in Holy Mass and the veneration of saints, which have impacted the Church for centuries.

THEODORE AND WOODROW: HOW TWO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS DESTROYED CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM by Andrew Napolitano (Thomas Nelson, 2012). America's constitutional structure was solidly in place until two American presidents took it upon themselves to lead the progressive reform movement that drastically transformed America from a nation of laws to one of political elitists who have conspired to unilaterally revoke America's past in favor of a Marxist-driven agenda. No one better understands these historical forces than Judge Napolitano. His book exposes both the Republican Roosevelt and the Democrat Wilson as ideologues bent on using the formidable powers of the presidency to redistribute wealth, regulate individual behavior and consolidate federal power. History is a serious teacher and so is Napolitano.

GOVERNMENT

COLLUSION: HOW THE MEDIA STOLE THE 2012 ELECTION by L. Brent Bozell & Tim Graham (Broadside Books, 2013). A brilliant exposé that details the campaign that most people missed in 2012. Hundreds of examples confirm that mainstream journalism has shed any pretenses it ever had of being fair and unbiased.

MUGGED: RACIAL DEMOQUERY FROM THE SEVENTIES TO OBAMA by Ann Coulter (Sentinel,

2012). As the Zimmerman murder trial has proven, racism is still very much with us but not for the reasons that many Americans think. Race-baiters and shakedown artists have exploited racial tensions and fanned the flames of riot with their disingenuous claims that the Klan runs America and every white man is a racist suspect. In her iconoclastic history of American race relations, Coulter offers a cornucopia of examples that demonstrate how the left has shamelessly waved the bloody chain of racism to intimidate the American public into accepting their demands for higher taxes and stricter laws.

OBAMA'S FOUR HORSEMEN: THE DISASTERS UNLEASHED BY OBAMA'S RE-ELECTION by David Harsanyi (Regnery Press, 2013). While they may not be as severe as Pestilence, War, Famine and Death, the Obama administration's ravenous hunger for Debt, Dependency, Surrender and Death signals hard times ahead for the American people. In just five years, President Obama has increased the national debt by nearly 70%. He has put more people on welfare and food stamps than any president since the Depression. He has bowed to dictators, turned his back on allies and shown a blatant disinterest in foreign policy and world leadership. He is also the most pro-abortion president in history and has instituted a health care plan that can only result in suffering and death for millions of elderly Americans. The Apocalypse? Perhaps not but Harsanyi is convinced America will never be the same.

WORSHIPPING THE STATE: HOW LIBERALISM BECAME OUR STATE RELIGION by Benjamin Wiker (Regnery, 2013). In his rendition of the battle for the soul of Western Civilization Wiker has clearly and concisely expounded on the intellectual and ideological forces that have empowered government to virtually expel religion and Christian morality from the public square. Starting with pagan Rome and proceeding through Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Jefferson, Comte and Nietzsche, Wiker pieces together a mosaic of ideas that have conspired to gradually erase the bonds of faith and morality from America's worldview. In its place millions of Americans have unwittingly genuflected before the altar of state absolutism.

CULTURE

CONSCIENCE AND ITS ENEMIES: CONFRONTING THE DOGMAS OF LIBERAL SECULARISM by Robert George (ISI Books, 2013). Written as a counterattack against secular assaults on religion and Christian culture, George's

book mutes the fallacy that a secular elite represents the voice of reason and science. His comprehensive defense of what James Madison called the *sacred rights of conscience* blasts cavernous holes in the porous hull of the *culture of death* on all issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, genetic engineering and euthanasia with clarity of argument that elucidates while it overwhelms.

THE GREAT DEGENERATION: HOW INSTITUTIONS DECAY AND ECONOMIES DIE by Niall Ferguson (Penguin Press, 2013). A historian with a long pedigree, Ferguson knows what forces mark a civilization for longevity. Conversely he also knows how rich countries ignore their roots and squander their futures. He cites representative government, the free market, the rule of law and civil society as the driving engines of Western prosperity. He fears the West has ignored its historic bearings. All Ferguson writes is demonstrably true; however, he has missed a key pillar in the West's decline, namely its loss of religious faith and moral compass since the end of World War II.

CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM AND ATHEISM: THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF THE WEST by William Kilpatrick (Ignatius, 2012). Islam's threat to the West dates back to the 8th century. Kilpatrick exposes the role played by atheists and secularists in advancing Islam's totalitarian plan in today's culture. With an apparent lack of concern for its consequences, the American left has submerged the global terrorist threat within the miasma of diverse racial, gender and political minorities as just another illustration of America's historical bias. The author also has a dire warning for Christians who search for a common ground with Muslims. He believes their misguided charity allots more time for Islamic activists to press their militant agenda.

THE ENLIGHTENMENT: AND WHY IT STILL MATTERS by Anthony Pagden (Random House, 2013). It has become a truism that *to defeat an intellectual enemy one must understand his ideas first*. As the old adage says *iron sharpens iron*. The European Enlightenment was vital to the genesis of the American culture war. Its secular virtues of liberty, equality, human rights, religious skepticism and scientific inquiry provided the lexicon of American liberalism and the *culture of death* for generations. However, Pagden's comprehensive paean to these ideas confuses popularity with veracity. Additionally his smug overconfidence in his enlightened ideas draws attention to the shallowness of his thinking and undermines the gravity of his arguments.

BIOGRAPHY

THE COMPLETE THINKER: THE MARVELOUS MIND OF G. K. CHESTERTON by Dale Ahlquist (Ignatius, 2012). A worthwhile exploration with unique insight into the mind of one of the Church's great modern thinkers. Ahlquist is the perfect Virgil, as he has written several books on Chesterton, whose literary output was as generous as was his waistline. To Chesterton, a Catholic convert, thinking was connecting things. And that he did with a depth of perception of the human moral condition achieved only by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in the last century. A perfect antidote for a generation of Catholics whose cultural custodians have fed them a fatty diet of experience in preference to the lean cuisine of thought.

THE COMMUNIST: FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF BARACK OBAMA'S MENTOR by Paul Kengor (Threshold Editions, 2012). In his memoirs, Barack Obama identified the man he called the most important early influence on his life, simply as *Frank*. The future president did not have the audacity to tell the public that *Frank* was the self-confessed communist Frank Marshall Davis. Of course the media knew all about Obama's *Frank* but apparently saw no news value in examining the importance of Obama's communist father figure. Kengor's exhaustive portrayal of Davis, his ideas and his sociological importance to a budding politician should fill the information void left by the mainstream media.

EDMUND BURKE: THE FIRST CONSERVATIVE by Jesse Norman (Basic Books, 2013). Touted by many as the greatest and most underrated conservative of the last three hundred years, Burke is due for a renaissance in 21st-century America. A fierce champion of God-given rights and the Anglo-American constitutional tradition, this 18th-century Irish statesman and philosopher, while unappreciated in his own times, is just what this country needs to recover its lost vision.

FRANCIS: POPE OF A NEW WORLD by Andrea Tornielli (Ignatius, 2013). This brief biography explores the mind, heart and thinking of the Pope called *Francis*. It is a warm and friendly rendition of the uncomplicated man who is trying to follow in the footsteps of one of the most popular saints in Christian lore. Above all it is the simple story of a gentle pastor who promises to be a fair and humble pontiff.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

THE EAR OF THE HEART: AN ACTRESS'S JOURNEY FROM HOLLYWOOD TO HOLY VOWS by Mother Delores Hart (Ignatius, 2013). An actress and a nun! A contradiction? No, this book is the beautiful story of Delores Hart's journey of faith from Hollywood's *Loving You* to *Loving Him* in a contemplative monastery in Connecticut.

A JOYFUL LIFE: FINDING GOD'S LOVE IN EVERYTHING by Frederick Herman (Self-published, 2012), Pb. Should Christians be dour and serious or should they light up the world with the joy of God's love in their heart? Herman explores this question with wit and humor in a fashion that will turn smiles and laughter into joyous living. Like books of its genre it can be read in one sitting or savored a page at a time.

TOWER OF BASEL: THE SHADOWY HISTORY OF THE SECRET BANK THAT RUNS THE WORLD by Adam Lebor (Public Affairs, 2013). The author focuses on the Bank for International Settlement, which serves as the clearinghouse for all the world's national banks. The BIS is the personification of the idea that the world is best run by technocratic elites. It represents what all democracies should fear most: tyrants who use the rules of finance rather than armies or captive parliaments to exercise extraordinary control over world affairs and billions of lives.

SEVEN MEN AND THE SECRET OF THEIR GREATNESS by Eric Metaxas (Thomas Nelson, 2013). From Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Eric Liddell to Chuck

Colson and Jackie Robinson, Metaxas captures the spirit of their religious devotion and its impact on the greatness of their lives with spirit and aplomb.

ABANDONED: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE ABORTION WARS by Monica Miller (Tan Books, 2013). This first-hand account is a bona fide tale of life and death that reads like a book of horror and violence.

NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI: AN INTELLECTUAL BIOGRAPHY by Corrado Vivanti (Trans. by Simon MacMichael) (Princeton University, 2013). *The Prince* is arguably one of the most important publications in political history. In this concise biography Vivanti deftly exposes the slow but steady development of Machiavelli's pernicious thinking. From a meticulous analysis of his plays, poetry and letters Vivanti shows how his ideas emanated from the context of Italian city-state politics.

THE MIRACLE OF FATHER KAPAUN: PRIEST, SOLDIER, AND KOREAN WAR HERO by Roy Wenzl and Travis Heying (Ignatius, 2013). An inspiring story for all ages! His roles as priest, soldier, POW and Korean War hero measure the greatness of Father Kapaun, who will receive the Congressional Medal of Honor as well as a possible sainthood declaration for his bravery, compassion and human dignity in a communist POW camp.

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D.C. CONFIDENTIAL: WASHINGTON SCANDALS FROM GRANT TO OBAMA. Scandal is nothing new in D.C. Of special interest is the triad of executive malfeasance with regard to the Benghazi assassinations, the IRS's intimidation of conservative groups and the Justice Department abuse of news sources. Ask for 8/13

A PAPAL PARADOX: POPE FRANCIS AND LIBERATION THEOLOGY. Liberation Theology has hidden its Marxist agenda to lift up the world's poor. Its advocates have erroneously adopted Pope Francis for their cause. This issue details why the new Pope could never be a Marxist. Ask for 7/13

A COLLAPSIBLE TENT: THE REPUBLICAN ROOSEVELT AND PROGRESSIVE REFORM. A disturbing analysis of the intellectual lineage of the Republican establishment that dates back to President Theodore Roosevelt. Since then *RINOs* have undermined most conservative attempts to restore the culture, return the country to economic solvency and re-establish the constitutional government. Ask for 6/13

1 copy	\$.75	100 copies	\$23.00
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