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# Theology Books

An index of book lists for theological reading by fields.

## Books by Categories

- [Book Index](#)
- [Theology](#)
- [Philosophy](#)
- [Fiction](#)
- [Non-Fiction](#)
- [Classics](#)
- [History](#)
- [Science](#)

## Large Topics with Own Page

- [General](#)
- [Scripture](#)
- [Dogmatic](#)
- [Liturgical](#)
- [Moral](#)
- [Spirituality](#)
- [Theologians to Read](#)
- [Abbreviations](#)

## General Research Method

- What does the Bible say?
  - Reference dictionaries and commentaries.
- What do the Church Fathers say?
  - Reference dictionaries and encyclopedias.
- What do theological authorities say?
  - Aquinas in particular.
- What does the Magisterium say?
  - Early Councils, Trent, Vatican II
  - Denzinger

# General Magisterial Sources

## Official Publications

- Acta Sanctae Sedis (ASS 1865-1908)
  - [https://www.vatican.va/archive/ass/index\\_en.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ass/index_en.htm)
- Acta Apostolicae Sedis (AAS 1909-)
  - [https://archive.org/details/pub\\_acta-apostolicae-sedis](https://archive.org/details/pub_acta-apostolicae-sedis)
  - [https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index\\_sp.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index_sp.htm)

## Research Guides

- [SLU](#)
- [CUA](#)

## Reference Collections

- Labbé and Cossart. 1730. *Sacrosancta Concilia ad Regiam editionem exacta*.
  - Referred to as Labbé or *Concilia*.
  - Collection of councils and synods up to 1727.
  - <http://patristica.net/labbe>
- Mansi, Giovanni Domenico. 1774ff. *Sacrorum Conciliorum Nova et Amplissima Collectio*.
  - Referred to as Mansi.
  - Collection of councils and synods up to Vatican I.
  - Meant to improve upon Labbé.
  - <http://patristica.net/mansi>
- Joannou, Pericles-Pierre. 1962-1964. *Fonti Discipline Generale Antiquae*. Roma:Grottaferrata.
  - [Vol 1.1: 2nd to 9th C \(General Council Canons\)](#)
  - [Vol 1.2: 4th to 9th C \(Local Synod Canons\)](#)
  - [Vol 2: 4th to 9th C \(Greek Synod Canons\)](#)
  - [Index](#)

## Research Databases

- [Index theologicus](#)
  - Free theological database search engine
- Atla Religion Database (Atla RDB)
  - <http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/search/selectdb?vid=0&sid=4cf98d12-b943-4123-9e41-3ebcd952a74c%40sessionmgr102>
- [Magisterium AI](#)

# Useful Websites

Websites on various topics that are quite helpful.

- <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/>
- [National Catholic Bioethics Center](#)
- [Original Languages Texts for Scripture](#)
- <https://oadtl.org/>
  - Collection of open online resources (journals, databases, books, etc.)
- <https://aquinasinstitute.org/>
  - Online texts of Aquinas
- [http://www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/index\\_eng.html](http://www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/index_eng.html)
  - Collection of magisterial documents and church fathers linked to scripture
- [https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index\\_sp.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index_sp.htm)
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRkUFBfVVqv5Tr2aZS4apFNpTJ-ys6VqeQxgsAl1v7cH5putlgchYWJAVGHuu0IWGmdD2DU7Vb1o7XH/pubhtml#>
  - Massive list of links to classical and medieval texts with online scans.

## Journals

- [Annales Theologici](#)
  - Santa Croce's Journal
- [Nova et Vetera](#)
  - CUA
- [The Thomist: A Speculative Quarterly Review](#)
  - CUA
- [Communio](#)

## Church History

### Useful Websites

- [Bibliography on the History of Monasticism in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages](#)

### Historical Works

- The Jewish War by Flavius Josephus
  - In The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged by William Whiston, 1987
- Antiquities of the Jews by Flavius Josephus

- In The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged by William Whiston, 1987
- Historia Ecclesiastica by Eusebius of Caesarea
  - Eusèbe de Césarée. Histoire ecclésiastique (SCh 31, 41, 55) by G. Bardy, , 1952-1958
  - Eusebius Werke, II, Die Kirchengeschichte (Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte, 9, 1-3), by Th. Mommsen, apud E. Schwartz, 1903-1909
  - CPG 3495 (Not yet in CCGL)
  - PG 20: 45-906
- Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum by Venerable Bede
  - [Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People](#) by B. Colgrave, R. Mynors, 1969
  - CPL 1375 (Not yet in CCSL)
  - PL 95: 21, 289

## General

- Belloc, Hillaire. 2017. *The Great Heresies*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.
- Bradley, James, and Richard Muller. 2016. *Church History: An Introduction to Research Methods*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Carroll, Warren H. 2004-2013. *A History of Christendom*. 6 vols. Front Royal, VA: Christendom Press.
- Franzen, August, John Patrick Dolan, and Peter Becker. 1969. *A Concise History of the Church*. London: Burns & Oates.
- Hitchcock, James. 2012. *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press.
- Tanner, Norman P. 2014. *New Short History of the Catholic Church*. London: Bloomsbury Continuum.
- Tanner, Norman P. 2008. *The Church in the Later Middle Ages*. London: I.B. Tauris.
- Woods, Thomas E. 2017. *How the Catholic Church built Western Civilization*. Washington: Regnery Publishing.

## Important Authors

- Christopher Dawson
- Norman Tanner

## Patristics

For particular works by patristic fathers refer to the theologians section here [fathers](#) or look at the different theological sections for patristic works on those topics. This section contains works on the study of patristics in general or collected patristic works.

## General Works and Select Collections

- The Fathers of the Church: A Comprehensive Introduction by Hubertus R. Drobner
- The Desert Fathers: Sayings of the Early Christian Monks by Benedicta Ward [R]
- La Predicacion cristiana antigua by Alexandre Olivar

## Useful Websites

Some sites the have original text available:

- [CCEL Christian Classics Library](#)
- [CCEL Scripture Search Tool](#)
- [The Latin Library - Christian Writers](#)
- [Patristic Scripture Use Database](#)
- [Patrologia Latina Database](#)
- <http://www.earlymedievalmonasticism.org/index.htm>

## Bibliographies

- The early church: an annotated bibliography of literature in English
- Dictionary of early Christian literature

## Reference Works

- Encyclopedia of the early church translated by Adrian Walford
  - Dizionario patristico e di antichità cristiane by by Angelo Di Berardin
- Encyclopedia of ancient Christianity by Angelo Di Berardino
  - Nuovo dizionario patristico e di antichità cristiane
- A dictionary of early Christian beliefs by David Bercot
- Letteratura patristica by I Dizionari San Paolo
- Clavis Patrum Latinorum (CPL)
  - List of critical editions for patristic works
  - There are other reference works like this for other classic christian works from Brepols
  - <https://clavis.brepols.net/clacla/Default.aspx>
- Patrology by Johannes Quasten
- [Biblia patristica: index des citations et allusions bibliques dans la littérature patristique](#)
- The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies, edited by Susan Ashbrook Harvey and David G. Hunter.
- The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Patristics

## Original Language Series

- Patrologia Latina et Greca by Migne
  - <https://www.patristica.net/latina/>
  - [http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/1815-1875,\\_Migne,\\_Patrologia\\_Latina\\_01.\\_Rerum\\_Conspectus\\_Pro\\_Tomis\\_Ordinatus,\\_MLT.html](http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/1815-1875,_Migne,_Patrologia_Latina_01._Rerum_Conspectus_Pro_Tomis_Ordinatus,_MLT.html)
  - Original massive collection
- [Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum](#) (CSEL)
  - Replaces many additions of Migne with critical editions
- [Corpus Christianorum](#).
  - Series Graeca (CCSG)
  - [Series Latina](#) (CCSL)
    - [Online Scans](#)
  - Continuatio Mediævalis (CCCM)
    - [Online Scans](#)
  - Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Generaliumque Decreta (COGD)
  - Clavis series indexes all known works, information about the works, and in which series the work can be found.
  - Modern series to replace Migne
  - Many scans are available on [archive.org](https://archive.org)

## English Language Series

- Ante-Nicene Fathers (ANF), Nicene (NPNF1), and Post-Nicene Fathers (NPNF2)
  - Three part series from late 1800's
  - <https://www.ccel.org/fathers.html>
- The Fathers of the Church Series
  - CUA
  - Contemporary Translation
- The Fathers of the Church: Mediaeval Continuation
  - CUA

## Other Language Series

- Sources Chr tiennes (SC)
- Testi Patristici Collana

## Particular Fathers

### Latin Fathers

- Augustine (354 - 430)

- [Works in Latin](#)
- [The Works of Saint Augustine, A Translation for the 21st Century](#)
- Brown, Peter. 2000. *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## Greek Fathers

- Cyril of Jerusalem (313 - 386)
  - Protocatechesis and Catecheses
- Athanasius (328 - 373)
  - On the Incarnation
- Basil of Caesarea (330 - 379)
  - On the Holy Spirit
- Gregory of Nyssa (335 - 394)
- Gregory of Nazianzus (329 - 390)
- Gregory Palamas (1296 - 1357/59)
  - Pino, Tikhon. 2022. *Essence and Energies: Being and Naming God in St Gregory Palamas*. New York: Routledge.

# Councilar Studies

## Collections

- Alberigo, G., et al. (eds.). 2013. [Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Decreta](#) . 3rd Ed. Bologna: EDB.
- Alberigo, G., et al. (eds.). 2006ff. Conciliorum oecumenicorum generaliumque decreta. Turnholt: Brepols. (CCCOGD)
  - I: From Nicaea I to Nicaea II (325-787)
  - II 1: The General Councils of Latin Christendom: From Constantinople IV to Pavia-Siena (869-1424)
  - II 2: The General Councils of Latin Christendom: From Basel to Lateran V (1431-1517)
  - III: From Trent to Vatican II (1545-1965)
  - IV 1-2: The Great Councils of the Orthodox Churches: From Constantinople 861 to Moscow 2000
  - IV 3: The Great Councils of the Orthodox Churches, Crete 2016
  - V 1-2: The General Councils of the Eastern Christian Churches
  - VI 1: Synods of the Churches of and after the Reformation: The Dawn of the Reformation (16th-17th Centuries) (2 Vols)
  - VI 2: Synods of the Churches of and after the Reformation: Ecclesia semper reformanda (17th-19th Centuries)
  - VI 3: Synods of the Churches of and after the Reformation: Alliances and Concords (19th-21st Centuries)
  - VII: General Index and Afterword
- Tanner, Norman P. 1990. *Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils*. 2 Vols. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

- Shaff, Philip (ed.). 1900. *The Seven Ecumenical Councils* in NPNF II vol XIV. Michigan: Eerdmans.
- [Hispanic Councils](#)
  - <https://clavis.brepols.net/clacla/OA/Details.aspx?id=DBB8D5D4D9524305800129577C499273>
- [African Councils](#)
- *Codex Canonum Ecclesiae Africanae* (CPL-1765)
  - CCSL cxlix
  - PL 56: 863

## First Seven Councils (Studies)

- Davis, Leo Donald. 1983. *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787) : Their History and Theology*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press.
- Kelly, Joseph F. 2009. *The Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church: A History*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press.
- L'Huillier, Peter. 1996. *The Church of the Ancient Councils: The Disciplinary Work of the First Four Ecumenical Councils*. Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.
- Tanner, Norman P. 2001. *The Councils of the Church: A Short History*. New York: Crossroad.

## Nicaea

- Anatolios, Khaled. 2011. *Retrieving Nicaea: The Development and Meaning of Trinitarian Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic.
- Ayres, Lewis. 2004. *Nicaea and Its Legacy: An Approach to Fourth-Century Trinitarian Theology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kim, Young Richard, ed. 2021. *The Cambridge Companion to the Council of Nicaea*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- International Theological Commission. 2025. [Gesù Cristo, Figlio di Dio, Salvatore: 1700o anniversario del Concilio Ecumenico di Nicea \(325-2025\)](#).

## Trent

- Schroeder, Henry J. 1978. *Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent*. Rockford, Ill.: Tan Books and Publishers.

## Second Vatican Council

### Texts

- *The Documents of Vatican II: Vatican Translation*. 2009. Vatican: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

## Studies

- Congar, Yves. 2012. *My Journal of the Council*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press.
- Guarino, Thomas. 2018. *The Disputed Teachings of Vatican II: Continuity and Reversal in Catholic Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans.
- Levering, Matthew. 2017. *An Introduction to Vatican II as an Ongoing Theological Event*. Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press.
- Lubac, Henri de. 2015-2016. *Vatican Council Notebooks*. 2 Vols. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.
- Ratzinger, Joseph. 1966. *Theological Highlights of Vatican II*. New York: Paulist Press.

# Spiritual

## Important Authors

- Réginald Garrigou-Lagrange
- Adolphe Tanquerey

## References

- Downey, Michael, and Luigi Borriello. 2003. *Nuovo dizionario di spiritualità*. Città del Vaticano: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
- [Biblioteca Sanctorum](#)
- Tanquerey, Adolphe. 1950. *The spiritual life: a treatise on ascetical and mystical theology*. Tournai: Desclee.
- Ball, Ann. 2003. *Encyclopedia of Catholic devotions and practices*. Huntington, Ind: Our Sunday Visitor.

## Magisterial

- [Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines](#) by CDW
- [Gaudete et Exsultate](#) by Pope Francis
  - See also [Placuit Deo](#) by CDF
- [Chrism Mass Homily \(14 April 2022\)](#) by Pope Francis
  - On the three idols of priestly ministry

## General Writings

- *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin
- *Fire Within* by Thomas Dubay, S.M.

- Transformation in Christ by Dietrich von Hildebrand
- The Examen Prayer by Fr. Timothy Gallagher [R]
- Discernment of Spirits by Fr. Timothy Gallagher [R]
- The Story of the Soul by St. Terese of Liseoux [R]
- The Seven Story Mansion by St. Theresa of Avilla [R]
- Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina by Michael Casey [R]
- Interior Freedom by Jacques Philippe
- The Cloud of Unknowing by Anonymous
- Bernard, Jean. 2007. *Priestblock 25487: a memoir of Dachau*. Bethesda: Zaccheus Press.

Besides the above books, there are the following schools through out our tradition to look more into.

## Study of the Saints

- *Acta Sanctorum*. 68 vols. Brussels, 1643-1940.
  - [Villanova Scans](#)
  - [Sorted List and Information about work](#)
  - [Searchable Database](#)
- *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina*. 3 vols. Brussels, 1898-1911. (BHL)
  - [Vol 1](#)
  - [Vol 2](#)
  - [Suppl Vol](#)
- *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca*. 4 vols. Brussels, 1895-1984. (BHG)
  - Vol 1
  - [Vol 2](#)
  - Vol 3
  - Suppl Vol 1
  - Suppl Vol 2
- *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Orientalis*. 1 vol. Brussels, 1910. (BHO)
- *Bibliotheca Sanctorum*. 14 vols. Roma: Istituto Giovanni XXIII nella Pontificia Università lateranense, 1961.
- Butler, Alban, Herbert Thurston, and Donald Attwater. 1996. *Butler's Lives of the saints*. Allen, Tex: Christian Classics.
- Leonardi, Claudio, Andrea Riccardi, Gabriella Zarri, Elio Guerriero, and Dorino Tuniz. 2002. *Il grande libro dei santi: dizionario enciclopedico*. Cinisello Balsamo (MI): San Paolo.
- Watkins, Basil, ed. *The Book of Saints: A Comprehensive Biographical Dictionary*. 8th ed. London: T&T Clark, 2016.

## Asceticism

- Ascetic behavior in Greco-Roman antiquity: a sourcebook by Vincent L. Wimbush
- Il digiuno cristiano dalle origini al IV secolo: contributo per una rivalutazione teologica by Adele Scarnera
- On liturgical asceticism by David W. Fagerberg
- On Fasting and Feasts by Basil in Popular Patristics Series vol 50

## Western

- Western Monasticism
- Ignatian
- Franciscan
- Carmelite
- Opus Dei
- The Little Way of St. Therese
- Cathedral Canons
- Charismatic Renewal

## Francis

- Saint Francis of Assisi by G.K. Chesterton [R]
- Gli Scritti di San Francesco d'Assisi by Fr. Kajetan Esser, O.F.M.
  - Latin-Italian Critical Edition
- Fonti francescane : scritti e biografie di san Francesco d'Assisi, cronache e altre testimonianze del primo secolo francescano, scritti e biografie di santa Chiara d'Assisi, testi normativi dell'Ordine francescano secolare by Ernesto Caroli
  - <http://www.ofs-monza.it/fonti-francescane.html>
- The words of Saint Francis: an anthology by James Meyer
  - 1982
- [St. Francis of Assisi: writings and early biographies: English omnibus of the sources for the life of St. Francis](#) by Marion A. Habig
  - 1973
- [The writings of St. Francis of Assisi](#) by Paschal Robinson
  - 1906
- The writings of Saint Francis of Assisi by Ignatius Brady, OFM
  - 1983

## Eastern

- The Ladder of Divine Ascent by John Climacus
- Hysachasism
- Eastern Monasticism
  - Anthony
  - Basil
  - Pochomius
  - John Cascian
  - Palestinian
  - Syrian
- Icons and the Name of God by Sergius Bulgakov

# Ecumenism and Inter-religious

- Nostra Aetate by VII
- Dominus Jesus [R]
- Le religioni del mondo by I Dizionari San Paolo

## Pastoral

### Marriage Prep

- Fitzgibbons, Richard. 2019. *Habits for a Healthy Marriage: A Handbook for Catholic Couples*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

## Canon Law

### Book Series

- [Subsidia Canonica](#)
  - PUSC canonical studies

### References

- Introduction to the study of canon law by Javier Hervada
- Metodologia: la tesi e lo studio del diritto canonico by Eutimio Sastre Santos
- Canon Law Digest
  - Collection of authoritative comments and documents by year and canon.
  - [Sold as a CD](#)
- Roman Replies & CLSA Advisory Opinions (RRAO)
  - [Can buy pdfs of all editions](#)

### Commentaries

- Marzoa, Ángel, Jorge Miras, Rafael Rodríguez-Ocaña, Ernest Caparros, Patrick Lagges, and Instituto Martín de Azpilcueta, eds. *Exegetical Commentary on the Code of Canon Law*. Engl. language ed. 8 vols. Annotated Legislative Texts. Montreal: Wilson & Lafleur, 2004.
- Code of Canon Law Annotated

# History of Canon Law

- Rolker, Christof. *Canon Law in the Age of Reforms (C. 1000 to C. 1150)*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2023.

## Procedural Law

- [Norms for Proceeding in the Discernment of Alleged Supernatural Phenomena](#), DDF May, 17 2024

## Liturgical Law

### Clarification Notes

- Dicastery of Clergy. 2025. [Decreto del Dicastero per il Clero sulla disciplina delle intenzioni delle Sante Messe](#). (Norms on Combining Intentions)
  - Congregation of the Clergy. 1991. [Mors lugiter](#). (Tentative permission to combine intentions)
- Dicastery of Legislative Texts. 2025. [Nota esplicativa del Dicastero per i Testi Legislativi sul divieto di cancellazioni nel Registro parrocchiale dei battesimi](#).

### Studies

- *Il rito e il diritto. Quale relazione?*. Rivista Liturgica. 2021 108/4.
- Del Pozzo, Massimo. 2013. *La giustizia nel culto: profili giuridici della liturgia della Chiesa*. Roma: EDUSC.
- Mussone, Davide. 2002. *L'eucaristia nel Codice di diritto Canonico: Commento ai Can. 897-958*. Città del Vaticano: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
- Rincón-Pérez, Tomás, Antonio Sánchez Sánchez-Gil, and Alberto Perlasca. 2014. *La liturgia e i sacramenti nel diritto della chiesa*. Roma: EDUSC.

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