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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
- Acta Apostolicae Sedis (AAS 1909-)
    - https://archive.org/details/pub_acta-apostolicae-sedis
    - 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 Antique*. 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
    - Collection of magisterial documents and church fathers linked to scripture
- https://www.vatican.va/archive/aas/index_sp.htm
- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRkUFBfVVqv5Tr2aZS4apFNpTJ-ys6VqeQxgsAI1v7cH5putIgchYWJAVGHuu0lWGmdD2DU7Vb1o7XH/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*. Gran 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 antichitá 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
  - 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

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 Chrétiennes (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.

Counciliar 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 Commision. 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*. Cittá 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 Iugiter*. (Tentative permision 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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