BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION

Biblical:

**God in the New Testament,** by Warren Carter, Abingdon Press, 2016, 208 pages,

paperback $24.88

Author Warren Carter addresses the ways in which New Testament writings present God by asking four questions about how God relates to others: How is God  
presented in relation to Israel? How is God presented in relation to Jesus and the Spirit? How is God presented in relation to believers/disciples/the church? How is God presented in relation to “the world”? Carter uses these questions to help draw out the most important factors in each of the New Testament writings discussed.

**How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee** by [Bart D. Ehrman](https://smile.amazon.com/Bart-D.-Ehrman/e/B001I9RR7G/ref=dp_byline_cont_ebooks_1), HarperOne, 2014,421 pages, $9.03 paperback

Ehrman discusses how Jesus moved from being a Jewish prophet to being God. In a book that took eight years to research and write, Ehrman sketches Jesus’s transformation from a human prophet to the Son of God exalted to divine status at his resurrection. Only when some of Jesus’s followers had visions of him after his death—alive again—did anyone come to think that he, the prophet from Galilee, had become God. And what they meant by that was not at all what people mean today.

**Mark As Story: An Introduction to the Narrative of a Gospel**, by [David Rhoads](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=David+Rhoads&search-alias=books&field-author=David+Rhoads&sort=relevancerank), [Joanna Dewey](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&text=Joanna+Dewey&search-alias=books&field-author=Joanna+Dewey&sort=relevancerank), and Donald Michie, Fortress Press, 3rd edition, 2012, 208 pages, $13.80 paperback

For thirty years, **Mark as Story** has introduced readers to the rhetorical and narrative skill that makes Mark so arresting and compelling a story. Rhoads, Dewey, and Michie have helped to pioneer our appreciation of the Gospels, and Mark in particular, as narratives originally created in an oral culture for oral performance.  The book is not a commentary, but will be a good introduction to Mark for the coming liturgical year in which Mark is the selection for the cycle of readings.

Theological:

**Christology: Origins, Developments, Debates**, by [Gerald O'Collins S.J.](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Gerald+O%27Collins+S.J.&search-alias=books&field-author=Gerald+O%27Collins+S.J.&sort=relevancerank), Baylor University Press, 2015, 216 pages, $39.95 hardcover.

Gerald O Collins continues his groundbreaking work in Christology by first tracing its major developments over the last fifty years. He next turns to a theology of resurrection Christology’s central event and the foundational roles played by its two great witnesses, Peter and Paul. O Collins then masterfully constructs a "theology of religions" that explores the relationship of Christianity to other living faiths precisely in light of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

**The Second Vatican Council: Message and Meaning** by c, Michael Glazier Books, 2014, 240 pages, $22.83 paperback.

O’Collins is one of the leading figures in the English-speaking theological world in our time and an eminent interpreter of the Council. In this volume, which brings together a number of previously published articles, his fifty years of penetrating and insightful scholarship are brought to bear on an examination of the radical changes, in some cases reversals, in teaching and policy that the Council announced and to questions of the message and meaning of the Council.

**An Unfinished Council: Vatican II, Pope Francis, and the Renewal of Catholicism**,by [Richard R. Gaillardetz](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Richard++R.+Gaillardetz&search-alias=books&field-author=Richard++R.+Gaillardetz&sort=relevancerank), Michael Glazier Books, 2015, 190 pages, $19.93 paperback

The Second Vatican Council awakened Catholic consciousness to the time-conditioned nature of the church as a human community led through history toward its final fulfillment by the dynamic of God's Spirit. As such, it will always be an unfinished building project. Building on this metaphor, Richard R. Gaillardetz invites us to consider the unfinished business of receiving the council's central insights, developing a synthetic reading of its teaching apt to inform the pastoral life and missionary witness of Catholics in today's world. He argues convincingly that Pope Francis presents Catholics with a fuller integration of Vatican II's enduring significance for our time, especially in his holistic vision of the church as a community of missionary disciples, confidently assuming responsibility for humble self-examination, ongoing renewal and reform, dialogical engagement within the church and with others, proclaiming the mercy and justice of God.

**God in the World: A Guide to Karl Rahner's Theology,** by [Thomas O'Meara](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_ebooks_1?ie=UTF8&text=Thomas+O%27Meara&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Thomas+O%27Meara&sort=relevancerank), Michael Glazier Books, 2007, 160 pages, $18.56 paperback

Rahner's is a theology that considers both people and history as important. It is a theology that begins with grace as God's self-communication, God's gift of life shared with humankind. It is a theology that directly speaks to some of the tensions we as the church, the people of God, struggle with today: religious pluralism and salvation through Jesus Christ, the roles of priests and lay ecclesial ministers, the offices of bishops and popes, the movements of secular modernity and religious fundamentalism. O 'Meara helps the reader find in Rahner a traditional revolutionary whose theology sees the depth, extent, and vitality of faith, hope and love in the hearts of all people.

Historical:

**The Jesuits: A History from Ignatius to the Present**, by John W. O'Malley SJ Rowman and Littlefield, 2014, 168 pages, $10.27 paperback

The book tells the story of the Jesuits’ great successes as missionaries, educators, scientists, cartographers, polemicists, theologians, poets, patrons of the arts, and confessors to kings. It tells the story of their failures and of the calamity that struck them in 1773 when Pope Clement XIV suppressed them worldwide. It tells how a subsequent pope restored them to life and how they have fared to this day in virtually every country in the world. Along the way it introduces readers to key figures in Jesuit history, such as Matteo Ricci and Pedro Arrupe, and important Jesuit writings, such as the *Spiritual Exercises*.

**Reclaiming Catholicism: Treasures Old and New**, by [Thomas H Groome](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=UTF8&text=Thomas+H+Groome&search-alias=books&field-author=Thomas+H+Groome&sort=relevancerank), editor, Orbis Books, 2010, 250 pages, paperback, $12.54

The American Catholic community prior to Vatican II had many vital expressions of Catholicism. Authors who are a “who’s who” of American Catholicism discuss the spiritual wisdom of the perspectives, personalities, and practices of that time to see what can enrich the faith lives of Catholics today.

Religious Dialogue:

[**A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam**, by](https://smile.amazon.com/History-God-000-Year-Judaism-Christianity-ebook/dp/B005DB6LSG/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1501083310&sr=1-1&keywords=karen+armstrong)[Karen Armstrong](https://smile.amazon.com/Karen-Armstrong/e/B000AQ72VE/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1501083310&sr=1-1)[, Ballantine Books, 2011, 496 pages, $9.21 paperback](https://smile.amazon.com/History-God-000-Year-Judaism-Christianity-ebook/dp/B005DB6LSG/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1501083310&sr=1-1&keywords=karen+armstrong)

Karen Armstrong traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God from the time of Abraham to the present. From classical philsophy and medieval mysticism to the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and the modern age of skepticism, she distills the intellectual history of monotheism.

**Christian de Cherge: A Theology of Hope,** by [Christian Salenson](https://smile.amazon.com/Christian-Salenson/e/B00DXF9546/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1), translated by Nada Conic, Cistercian Publications, 2012, 224 pages, $19.95 paperback

Christian de Chergé, prior of the Cistercian community at Tibhirine, Algeria, was assassinated with six of his fellow monks in 1996. De Chergé saw his monastic vocation as a call to be a person of prayer among persons who pray, that is, among the Muslim friends and neighbors with whom he and his brothers shared daily life. Salenson weaves together not only a very good biographical story about Christian and his fellow monks but at the same time discusses how the Christian practices of prayer, lectio divina, eucharistic, sacraments, fasting, feasting, and almsgiving can be deepened by an openness to what Abbot de Chergé called 'radical hospitality' or 'friendship.'

**Martin Luther: An Ecumenical Perspective,** by Walter Kasper, Paulist Press, 2016. 56 pages, $8.99 combined with

**A Shared Spiritual Journey: Lutherans and Catholics Traveling toward Unity,** by [Susan K. Wood](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_ebooks_1?ie=UTF8&text=Susan+K.+Wood&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Susan+K.+Wood&sort=relevancerank) and [Timothy J. Wengert](https://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_ebooks_2?ie=UTF8&text=Timothy+J.+Wengert&search-alias=digital-text&field-author=Timothy+J.+Wengert&sort=relevancerank), forward by Martin Marty, Paulist Press, 2016, 272 pages, $26.81 paper

These two books will be appropriate for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Cardinal Kasper sketches a positive view of Luther from a Catholic perspective. Wood and Wengert treat the many theological issues that have been the center of ecumenical dialogue, such as Justification, Scripture and tradition, sacraments, ministry, and the Church.

Christian Ethics:

**In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez,** by [Paul Farmer](https://www.amazon.com/Paul-Farmer/e/B000AQW46M/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1) and [Gustavo Gutierrez](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=UTF8&text=Gustavo+Gutierrez&search-alias=books&field-author=Gustavo+Gutierrez&sort=relevancerank) , and [Michael Griffin](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_3?ie=UTF8&text=Michael+Griffin&search-alias=books&field-author=Michael+Griffin&sort=relevancerank) and [Jennie Weiss Block](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_4?ie=UTF8&text=Jennie+Weiss+Block&search-alias=books&field-author=Jennie+Weiss+Block&sort=relevancerank), editors, Orbis Books, 2013, 192 pages, $16.26 paperback

This book reflects intersection between the lives, commitments, and strategies of two highly respected figures Dr. Paul Farmer (Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; founding director of Partners in Health (PIH), an international non-profit organization; and UN Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti) and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez (pioneer liberation theologian). They are joined in their option for the poor, their defense of life, and their commitment to liberation. Farmer has credited liberation theology as the inspiration for his effort to do social justice medicine, while Gutierrez has recognized Farmer's work as particularly compelling example of the option for the poor, and the impact that theology can have outside the church. Draws on their respective writings, major addresses by both at Notre Dame, and a transcript of a dialogue between them.

**Jesus Christ Peacemaker: A New Theology of Peace**, by Terrence J. Rynne, Orbis Books, 2014, 256 pages, $17.82 paperback

A new theology of peace that renders the just war theory near mute by making Jesus and his teachings the cornerstone of both theory and practice. Moving beyond a theoretical debate about the morality of war, Terrence Rynne insists that our vocation as Christians is to active, nonviolent, persistent, risky, creative peacemaking and shows clearly how an evolving Catholic theology of peace increasingly reflects that emphasis.