

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
St. Frances of Rome Mission
Book Discussion Group

Symposium June 2024

Since the Spring of 2021, the Book Discussion Group has explored works of literature which are edifying to people of faith, including not only books which are obviously intended for one's spiritual formation, but also those less obviously so. The ethos of the Book Discussion Group has been "To the spiritual person, all reading is spiritual reading," and so we have read not only works by great saints, theologians, and spiritual thinkers, but also novels and histories, and works by authors who did not themselves share our faith. In doing this, we see the exercise of being formed in the truth and then hearing Truth Himself speak, even in the places where it might not occur to us immediately that this would be the case.

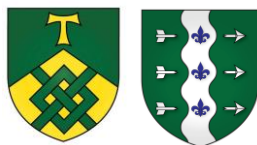
So that this exercise might bear fruit, I propose a different activity for the Book Discussion Group's meetings for June. Instead of reading a book over the course of a month and discussing only that title, let us instead edify one another with the impressions that these books have made upon us. I propose a Symposium, which shall take the following format:

--All those wishing to present will submit a title, from the attached list of books we have read since 2021, along with a one or two sentence proposal of a theme from that title. I will select four themes and inform the presenters. Themes must be submitted by Monday 17 June via email to acatronpcj@gmail.com

--We will meet at the St. Francis Rectory following the morning liturgical services on Friday 21 June, the Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, at 11:00 AM. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served, and those attending are invited to bring a wine of their choosing (in classical antiquity, a symposium was not a meeting of the minds, but a wine-drinking party, and so we must remain authentic to the tradition).

--After refreshments, we will begin promptly at 12:00 with the first presentation. I will introduce the theme, and then the presenter will speak for 15 minutes on their theme. We will then have a roundtable discussion for 30 minutes, followed by a break of 15 minutes. The next theme will begin at the top of the following hour.

Presenters: Please submit your themes by Monday 17 June
All others: Please RSVP to my email, parish email, or Flocknotes by Wednesday 19 June



Here is the list of books we have covered:

2021

<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>	C. S. Lewis
<i>The Great Divorce</i>	C. S. Lewis
<i>The Noonday Devil</i>	Abbot Jean-Charles Nault, OSB
<i>The Little Prince</i>	Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury
<i>Three Philosophies of Life</i>	Peter Kreeft

2022

<i>The Four Loves</i>	C. S. Lewis
<i>My Ántonia</i>	Willa Cather
<i>Prayer for Beginners</i>	Peter Kreeft
<i>Morte d'Urban</i>	J. F. Powers
<i>Theology for Beginners</i>	Frank Sheed
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Harper Lee

2023

<i>Jesus of Nazareth</i>	Pope Benedict XVI
<i>Real Philosophy for Real People</i>	Fr. Robert McTeigue, SJ
<i>The Greatest Philosopher Who Ever Lived</i>	Peter Kreeft
<i>Short Stories</i>	Flannery O'Connor
<i>The Way of a Pilgrim</i>	Anonymous
<i>In This House of Brede</i>	Rumer Godden
<i>Story of a Soul</i>	St. Therese of Lisieux
<i>Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives</i>	Pope Benedict XVI

2024

<i>Death Comes for the Archbishop</i>	Willa Cather
<i>A Canticle for Leibowitz</i>	Walter M. Miller, Jr.
<i>Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week</i>	Pope Benedict XVI
<i>The World's First Love</i>	Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen