

Spiritual Formation Bibliography

SPIRITUAL FORMATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jerry R. Flora*

Classics of Western Spirituality. 1978-. 85 vols. to date. New York: Paulist Press.

About 60 volumes of this premier collection are Christian authors (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant). All volumes are paperback and have excellent introductions.

Christian Heritage Classics. 1983-91. Ed. by Sherwood Eliot Wirt. 4 vols. Wheaton: Crossway Books/Good News Publishers.

This selection covers the 17th-20th centuries and includes evangelical Protestant writers as well as Catholics.

Muto, Susan A. 1994. A Practical Guide to Spiritual Reading. Rev. ed. Pertersham, MA: St. Bede's Publications.

How to read the classics of Christian literature together with several reading plans to follow.

BASIC REFERENCE WORKS

Jones, Cheslyn; Geoffrey Wainwright; and Edward Yarnold, eds. 1986. The Study of Spirituality. New York: Oxford University Press.

Over 600 pages, each chapter by a recognized expert. The best one-volume reference work in the field. Indispensable.

Wakefield, Gordon, ed. 1983. The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Spirituality. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.

A serviceable reference work of good quality, but not so extensive as Jones-Wainwright-Yarnold.

ENCYCLOPEDIC SURVEYS

Christian Spirituality. 1985-89. 3 vols. New York: Crossroad. Traces Christian spirituality as part of World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest. Available in paperback and hardback.

McGinn, Bernard. 1991-. The Presence of God: A History of Western Christian Mysticism. 2 vols. to date. New York: Crossroad.

Perhaps the largest one-writer project going. Although encyclopedic, it is clearly written.

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DESKTOP HANDBOOKS

Gangel, Kenneth O., and James C. Wilhoit, eds. 1994. The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation.

Wicks, Robert J., ed. 1995. Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers. New York: Paulist Press.

Ready-reference articles, the first volume by Protestant evangelicals, the second by Roman Catholics.

HYMNBOOKS/PRAAYERBOOKS

The Book of Common Prayer. 1979. New York: Seabury Press.

The classic Anglican/Episcopal work to which all other English books of prayer and worship are debtors. Includes the Psalter for morning and evening reading, and much, much more. A treasure to be mined for years.

Polman, Bert, Marilyn Kay Stulken, and James R. Sydnor, eds. 1994. Amazing Grace: Hymn Texts for Devotional Use. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press.

About 300 hymn texts printed as the poems they really are. Topically arranged, fully indexed. A beautiful devotional aid.

FINALLY

Holt, Bradley P. 1993. Thirsty for God: A Brief History of Christian Spirituality. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress.

A little gem, broadly conceived, clearly written, and fully documented. Includes questions, exercises, readings, time line, glossary, bibliography, and complete indexes. An ideal overview with suggestions on how to go on from here.

Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life. 1986-. Nashville: The Upper Room. The only significant journal of its kind under Protestant auspices. Includes articles, reviews, poetry, engravings, and calligraphy in an artistic format. 6 issues per year.