

A CATHOLIC LIFETIME READING PLAN

BY FR JOHN HARDON SJ

THE AGE OF PERSECUTION

1. **St Ignatius of Antioch**
 - Specially recommended: *Letters*
2. **St Justin Martyr**
 - The First Apology*
 - The Second Apology*
3. **St Irenaeus**
 - The Presentation of the Apostolic Preaching*
 - Against the Heretics ('Adversus Haereses')*
4. **Tertullian**
 - Apologetical Works*
 - Disciplinary, Moral and Ascetical Works*
5. **St Cyprian**
 - The Lapsed, the Unity of the Catholic Church*
 - On the Lord's Prayer*
6. **Lactantius**
 - The Divine Institutes*

THE PATRISTIC AGE

7. **Eusebius**
 - Ecclesiastical History*
8. **St Athanasius**
 - The Incarnation of the Word*
 - The Life of Saint Anthony*
9. **Prudentius**
 - Poems*
 - Hymns*
10. **St John Chrysostom**
 - On the Priesthood*
 - Address on Vainglory and the Right Way for Parents to Bring up their Children*
11. **St Augustine**
 - City of God*
 - Confessions*
 - Of True Religion*
 - Enchiridion: On Faith, Hope and Charity*

12. **St Jerome**
 - Letters*
 - On Illustrious Men*

MEDIEVAL CIVILISATION

13. **St Vincent of Lerins**
 - Commonitorium*
14. **Boethius**
 - The Consolation of Philosophy*
15. **St Benedict**
 - The Rule of St Benedict*
16. **The Venerable Bede**
 - A History of the English Church and People*
17. **St Anselm**
 - Prayers and Meditations*
 - Why God Became Man and the Virgin Conception*
18. **St Bernard of Clairvaux**
 - The Steps of Humility*
 - On Loving God*
 - Magnificat: homilies in praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
19. **St Francis of Assisi**
 - The Writings of St Francis*
 - The Little Flowers of St Francis*
20. **St Thomas Aquinas**
 - Summa Contra Gentiles*
 - Summa Theologiae*
 - The Catechetical Instructions*
21. **St Bonaventure**
 - The Journey of the Mind to God*
 - The Triple Way*
 - The Mirror of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
22. **Bl Jacobus de Voragine**
 - The Golden Legend*
23. **Dante**
 - The Divine Comedy*
24. **St Catherine of Siena**
 - The Dialogue*

25. Geoffrey Chaucer

- The Canterbury Tales*

26. Thomas à Kempis

- The Imitation of Christ*

27. St Catherine of Genoa

- Treatise on Purgatory*

28. St Thomas More

- A Dialogue of Comfort Against Tribulation*
 Prayerbook
 Utopia

THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION

29. St Ignatius Loyola

- Spiritual Exercises*
 Letters and Instructions
 Autobiography

30. St Teresa of Avila

- Autobiography*
 The Way of Perfection
 Interior Castle

31. St John of the Cross

- Ascent of Mount Carmel*
 Dark Night of the Soul

32. Miguel de Cervantes

- Don Quixote* 

33. St Robert Bellarmine

- The Ascent of the Mind to God*
 The Art of Dying Well

34. St Francis de Sales

- Introduction to the Devout Life*
 Treatise on the Love of God

35. Richard Crashaw

- Poems*

36. St Margaret Mary Alacoque

- Autobiography*

37. St Louis de Montfort

- True Devotion to Mary*

38. Alban Butler

- Lives of the Saints*

39. St Alphonsus de Liguori

- The Holy Eucharist*
 The Glories of Mary
 The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ
 The Way of Salvation and of Perfection

40. Bl Anne Catherine Emmerich

- The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

41. Frederick William Faber

- Growth in Holiness, or the Progress of the Spiritual Life*
 The Blessed Sacrament, or the Works and Way of God
 Poems
 Spiritual Conferences

42. St Peter Julian Eymard

- The Real Presence*
 Holy Communion
 Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
 The Eucharist and Christian Perfection

43. Alessandro Manzoni

- The Betrothed* 

44. Prosper Guéranger

- The Liturgical Year: Advent to the Last Sunday of Pentecost*

THE MODERN AGE

45. Orestes Brownson

- Essays and Reviews chiefly on Theology, Politics and Socialism*

46. Matthias Joseph Scheeben

- The Mysteries of Christianity*
 Mariology

47. William Bernard Ullathorne

- The Groundwork of the Christian Virtues*
 The Little Book of Humility and Patience

48. Bl John Henry Newman

- Apologia Pro Vita Sua*
 Sermons and Discourses
 The Idea of a University
 The Dream of Gerontius

49. Coventry Patmore

- Poems*

50. St Thérèse of Lisieux

- Story of a Soul (Autobiography)*




51. Eugene Boylan

- This Tremendous Lover*
 The Mystical Body: the foundation of the spiritual life




52. Francis Thompson

- Poems*

53. Robert Hugh Benson

- Christ in the Church*
 The Light Invisible 
 The Necromancers 
 Come Rack! Come Rope! 

54. Henryk Sienkiewicz

- Quo Vadis?* 
 With Fire and Sword 
 The Deluge 

55. Augustin Poulain

- The Graces of Interior Prayer*

56. James Gibbons

- The Faith of our Fathers*
 The Ambassador of Christ

57. Alice Meynell

- Poems*
 Essays

58. Adolphe Alfred Tanqueray

- The Spiritual Life: a treatise on ascetical and mystical theology*

59. Bl Joseph Columba Marmion

- Christ, the Life of the Soul*
- Christ in His Mysteries*

60. Ottokar Prohaszka

- Meditations on the Gospels*

61. Ludwig von Pastor

- The History of the Popes*

62. Jean-Baptiste Chautard

- The Soul of the Apostolate*

63. G.K. Chesterton

- St Francis of Assisi*
- The Catholic Church and Conversion*
- The Everlasting Man*
- St Thomas Aquinas: the dumb ox*

64. Fernand Carrol

- Liturgical Prayer: its history and spirit*
- The Prayer of the early Christians*
- Mass of the Western Rites*
- The Mass: its doctrine, its history*

65. Ferdinand Prat

- Theology of St Paul*
- Jesus Christ: his life, his teaching, and his works*

66. Marie Joseph Lagrange

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ*

67. Alban Goodier

- The Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- The Public Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
- The Prince of Peace*

68. St Maximilian Kolbe

- Personal Letters*
- Spiritual Writings*
- Theological Writings*

69. St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

- The Science of the Cross*
- Essays on Woman*

70. Henri Gheon

- Secrets of the Saints*
- Three Plays*
- Christmas in the Market Place*
- The Art of the Theatre*

71. Edward Leen

- Progress through mental prayer*
- In the Likeness of Christ*
- The Church Before Pilate*
- The Holy Ghost and His Work in Souls*

72. Alexis Carrel

- Man the Unknown*
- The Voyage to Lourdes*



73. Sigrid Undset

- Kristin Lavransdatter* 
- Saga of Saints*
- The Longest Years*

74. William Thomas Walsh

- Isabella of Spain*
- Characters of the Inquisition*
- Our Lady of Fatima*

75. Owen Francis Dudley

- Will men be like Gods? Humanitarianism or human happiness* 
- The Tremaynes and the Masterful Monk* 

76. Hilaire Belloc

- The Path to Rome*
- The Servile State*
- Europe and the Faith*
- Marie Antoinette*

77. Paul Claudel

- The Satin Slipper*
- The Tidings Brought to Mary: a drama*
- The Book of Christopher Columbus: a lyrical drama*
- Letters from Paul Claudel, my godfather*

78. Johannes Jorgensen

- Saint Brigid of Sweden*
- Saint Catherine of Siena*
- Pilgrim Walks in Franciscan Italy*
- Jorgensen: an autobiography*

79. Pierre Pourrat

- Christian Spirituality*

80. Ronald Knox

- Enthusiasm*
- A Spiritual Aenid*
- The Belief of Catholics*
- A Commentary on the Gospels*

81. Paul de Jaegher

- One with Jesus*
- The Virtue of Trust*

82. Francis Trochu

- The Curé of Ars: St Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney*
- St Bernardette Soubirous*

83. John Peter Arendzen

- The Holy Trinity*
- Reason and Revelation*
- What Becomes of the Dead?*
- Purgatory and Heaven*

84. Guiseppe Ricciotti

- The Life of Jesus Christ*
- The History of Israel*
- Paul the Apostle*
- The Age of Martyrs: Christianity from Diocletian to Constantine*

85. Gerald Vann

- The Divine Pity*
- The Seven Swords*

86. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange

- Christian Perfection and Contemplation, according to St Thomas Aquinas and St John of the Cross*
- The Three Ages of the Interior Life*
- The Mother of Our Saviour and our Interior Life*

87. Henri Daniel-Rops

- The Book of Mary*
- The Church of the Apostles and Martyrs*
- The Church in the Dark Ages*
- The Catholic Reformation*

88. Karl Adam

- The Spirit of Catholicism*
- The Son of God*
- Christ Our Brother*
- The Roots of the Reformation*

89. Evelyn Waugh

- Brideshead Revisited* 
- A Handful of Dust* 
- Edmund Campion*

90. Romano Guardini

- The Lord*
- The Way of the Cross of Our Lord and Our Saviour, Jesus Christ*
- Freedom, Grace and Destiny: three chapters in the interpretation of existence*
- The End of the Modern World: a search for orientation*

91. Katherine Burton

- The Great Mantle: Pope St Pius X*
- Sorrow Built a Bridge: Mother Alphonsus*
- Witness of the Light*
- The Next Thing: autobiography and reminiscences*

92. Christopher Dawson

- Religion and World History*
- Progress and Religion*
- The Crisis of Western Education*
- Religion and the Rise of Western Culture*

93. Francois Mauriac

- Life of Jesus*
- Woman of the Pharisees*
- St Margaret of Cortona*
- The Eucharist*

94. James Alberione

- Personality and Configuration with Christ*
- Thoughts*
- Glories and Virtues of Mary*
- Daily Meditations: the great prayers, the great truths, the great virtues*

95. Jacques Maritain

- An Introduction to Philosophy*
- Prayer and Intelligence*
- The Degrees of Knowledge*
- Art and Scholasticism*

96. Arnold Lunn

- Now I See: an autobiography*
- The Revolt Against Reason*
- Switzerland: its literary, historical, and topographical landmarks*
- A Saint in the Slave Trade: Peter Claver, 1581–1654*

97. Charles Journet

- The Church of the Word Incarnate*
- The Primacy of Peter*
- The Meaning of Grace*
- The Wisdom of Faith: an introduction to theology*

98. Dietrich von Hildebrand

- Transformation in Christ: on the Christian attitude of mind*
- Marriage: the mystery of faithful love*
- Celibacy and the crisis of faith*
- The Sacred Heart: an analysis of human and divine affection*

99. Etienne Gilson

- History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages*
- A Gilson Reader: selected writings*
- Modern Philosophy: Descartes to Kant*
- Recent Philosophy: Hegel to the present*

100. Ven Fulton Sheen

- Treasures in Clay: an autobiography*
- Peace of Soul*
- These are the Sacraments*
- Three to get Married*

101. Igino Giordani

- The Social Message of Jesus*
- The Social Message of the Early Church Fathers*
- Mary of Nazareth*

102. Frank Sheed

- Theology and Sanity*
- Communism and Man*
- The Church and I*
- Marriage and the Family*

103. Hubert van Zellar

- We Die Standing Up*
- Approach to Christian Scripture*
- The End: a projection not a prophecy*
- Praying While You Work: devotions for the use of Martha rather than Mary*

104. John C.H. Wu

- The Science of Love: a study in the teachings of St Thérèse of Lisieux*
- Beyond East and West: an autobiography*
- Fountain of Justice: a study in the natural law*
- The Interior Carmel: the threefold way of love*