

## Catholic Study References

### Overview

As one grows in faith and knowledge it is important to know what materials and other information may be available. This document will provide some recommendations for further study and enjoyment.

### Books & Publications

Many books are available with a virtual explosion of interest in religion in the past few years. To begin with everyone should have at least the following:

- **Bible:** The New American Bible (NAB) is the one approved for use by Catholics and most closely matches the text reading at Mass. There are a few other bibles that are approved but the NAB is the best for readability. When purchasing a new bible always look for the *Imprimatur* in the front pages to ensure it is a correct one. Also I recommend a good hard bound book with a *red letter* edition. The red print illustrates the words actually spoken by Jesus.
- **Catechism:** Coupled with the bible this is your second most important book to have as it explains the essence of the Catholic faith.
- **Handbook for Today's Catholic:** In expensive, this is a gem and has the basics of our faith and doctrine fully indexed to the Catechism.

Some other optional books and publications are as follows:

- **Commentary:** A commentary explains the text in the bible and greatly expands upon the commentaries found as part of most bibles. One of the best is *The Collegeville Bible Commentary* is about the best that I have found and can be purchased through Barnes & Noble or the links shown below.
- **Catholic Dictionary:** This provides for a typical dictionary definition of words found in the bible and elsewhere.

- **Catholic Encyclopedia:** An encyclopedia goes further than just defining what the words may mean and is a useful aid. If one is familiar with a typical encyclopedia the Catholic version is dedicated to that concept.
- **Concordance:** A concordance is similar to both a dictionary and an encyclopedia. It is a lower cost option for both of them and also provides bible chapter and verse references when appropriate.
- **Our Sunday Visitor:** This is a weekly periodical that is very orthodox and good reading. I have had a subscription for many years.

### Web sites

The Internet is a wealth of information – as long as you know what to look for and what are sound catholic materials. The following are a few of the better ones and a few of these provide you with links to other sites which also are faithful to the Catholic Church. Take care on the Internet as there are as many anti-Catholic sites as good ones.

- [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com): This is the site for Catholic Answers and is a very good and orthodox site for answers to your questions and to purchase Catholic materials.
- [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va): This is the link to the Vatican web site.
- [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com): This is the link to EWTN for both the television and radio channels.
- [www.archgh.org](http://www.archgh.org): This is the link to our Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.
- [www.newadvent.com](http://www.newadvent.com): This link is for a Catholic Encyclopedia so you may not have purchase one. It also gives you several good links to other sites.
- [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com): This is the site for the weekly newspaper Our Sunday Visitor.
- [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com): You can order good Catholic materials and gifts from this site.