

A Word from The Center



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Possible Resources: Contemplative Study



According to the French Catholic monk, Abishiktananda, contemplative study moves us beyond the mere rational to the center of our being, which is the heart or soul: Our meeting place with God.

...Contemplative Study, Center Monograph, IV

A CD "Circle" Supplement

Those of you in our CD Circle will receive (or have, by now, received) a couple of CDs related to an informal contemplative retreat. These recordings are aimed at helping professionals, not novices in the contemplative arts. With that audience in mind, the CDs discussed contemplative study and selected resources. (See also our Monograph, IV)

The following book list includes some titles that I particularly enjoy and return to repeatedly.

I share these titles as a sample of some categories and types of study resources related to contemplation; you may wish to start a similar list for yourself. I did not include such study treasures as different bibles, scripture dictionaries, and so on. One imagines each has personal favorites of such trusted materials.

As always, I send best greetings and look forward to your comments. ...MS



The titles below may interest those of us who want to understand the spiritual values, diversity, disciplines and mindset of monastic and more informal “forms” of contemplative life.

When it comes to contemplative dispositions, both highly religious and seemingly secular types can share a similar heart-posture, albeit in differing degrees.

Since each student of such issues has a unique perspective and orientation, probably each would benefit from locating and reading his or her own favorite titles.

Please note:

1. Our list reflects a Judeo-Christian line of thought. If such ideas don't match yours, please take time to start your own list.
2. Some of these books are old. Some are classics. Some, currently out of print and hard to find—save through a rare book dealer. (Rare professionals, these days.)
3. New Center CDs relate to all this (i.e., CD 200–12; CD 201–12).



Core Values

Titles that seem to relate to the core values and *early* turns to creative authenticity, “voluntary simplicity” and/or some sort of contemplative life...

- ✚ *Awakening To Prayer* (Augustine Ichiro Okumura, OCD).
- ✚ *A Dwelling Place For Wisdom* (Raimundo Panikkar).
- ✚ *Ordinary People as Monks & Mystics with New Preface* (M. Sinetar).
- ✚ *Sometimes, Enough is Enough* (M. Sinetar).
- ✚ *Mysticism* (Evelyn Underhill).

Archetypes

Titles that seem to relate to selected archetypes and *diverse* lifestyles of the highly creative and authentic, who depend on simplicity and/or contemplative life to “run” their wholesome life's course:

- ✚ *Holy Folly—Short and Tall Tales from the Abbey of Gethsemani* (Br. Paul Quenon, OCSO; Br. Guericc, OSCO; Father Timothy Kelly, OSO).
- ✚ *Portrait of An Artist: Georgia O'Keeffe* (Laurie Lisle).

✚ *John Muir—In His Own Words* (John Muir and John Morse, ed.).

Contemplative Reverence

Titles that seem to relate to contemplative prayer, meditation, journaling, study methods and/or promote some of that...

✚ *My Utmost for His Highest* (Oswald Chambers).

✚ *Prayer*, Abishiktananda (aka Henri Le Saux).

✚ *The Way of the Pilgrim* (Anonymous).

✚ *Tales of the Hasidim* (Martin Buber).

✚ *The Intimate Merton—His life from His Journals* (Thomas Merton).

✚ *Contemplative Study—Monograph IV* (M. Sinetar).

✚ *The Wisdom of the Desert Fathers* (Sister Benedicta Ward, SLG).

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please e-mail The Center at iedit@mcn.org.*

The C e n t e r M i s s i o n

To increase understanding of the progression and diverse expressions of the spiritual completion toward which we strive; to advance and preserve selected principles of the contemplative tradition and the entirety of the founder's body of work.

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