



## ***A National Reading Program with Local Impact!***

***Dioceses ♦ Parishes ♦ Bookstores ♦ Individuals***

### ***How does CatholicsRead work?***

To encourage all Catholics to read the Bible and related books, the Catholic Book Publishers Association (CBPA) launched CatholicsRead in 2003.

Each year, three books from the Bible are highlighted, often related to the Lectionary readings for the liturgical year or other relevant themes. A summary of the selected books of the Bible and reflection questions by a noted scripture scholar are available free of charge at [www.CatholicsRead.org](http://www.CatholicsRead.org). Also provided are links to supplemental resources (books, music, and more) by a variety of publishers for further study, prayer, or spiritual growth — and even a handy search feature that provides a list of local Catholic bookstores.

2009 Featured Books: Mark (Year B), Acts of the Apostles, Exodus

2010 Featured Books: Luke (Year C), Revelation, Genesis

In other words, CatholicsRead.org is a one-stop destination for all Catholics to find quality books and other resources for Scripture study and spiritual formation!

### ***How can CatholicsRead work for YOU?***

**Turn the page and find out!**



## Diocesan Participation

- ◆ Feature a “CatholicsRead” area at all diocesan conferences and gatherings during the year. Contact the CBPA office or a CBPA-member publisher for assistance.
- ◆ Include a workshop on Catholic reading at all diocesan conferences, gatherings, and training sessions, especially those for catechists, teachers, and youth ministers.
- ◆ Organize presentations to explain the features and benefits of CatholicsRead and introduce the year’s titles to priests and lay leaders during key diocesan meetings (such as presbyterial council meetings). It is important for parish “gatekeepers,” especially clergy, to buy into the program for it to work at the parish level. Contact participating publishers and ask them to provide clergy and other parish leaders with dis-counted copies of CatholicsRead titles.

## Parish Participation

- ◆ Host a parish book club that focuses on one of the featured books of the Bible. Identify 3-4 additional titles that parishioners can choose from for supplemental reading. Meet on a regular basis and discuss the biblical text as a large group, then divide into smaller groups to discuss the individual titles.
- ◆ Plan a multi-week program that focuses on one of the titles and Scripture texts during Advent, Lent, or Summer Ordinary Time.
- ◆ Encourage small faith communities to choose a title for each of the featured books of the Bible during the year as the source of their reflection for three 4-6 week periods.
- ◆ Let the teen leaders of the parish choose a title per month. Set up a graffiti board in the youth ministry room or parish school and let them write comments and reviews for others in the parish to read. Let CatholicsRead improve teens’ biblical literacy as they lead the parish in sharing their insights.
- ◆ Invite your pastor to host a reading group so that the insights and reflections from the Scripture and supple-mental resources can help in his homily preparation.
- ◆ Purchase a variety of the recommended titles. Share and read them with shut-ins or the elderly of the parish or with those living in Catholic nursing homes in the area. It’s a great form of outreach and a great way to remain connected to those who can’t always make it to parish gatherings but still have much to offer.
- ◆ Donate one book from each category to the parish library. Advertise new additions in your parish bulletin.
- ◆ Purchase a quantity of one of the less expensive titles and use it as an evangelization tool in the parish community. Go door-to-door to meet the neighbors and deliver the book as a gift or present a copy to new parish registrants.
- ◆ Continue the phenomenon of people in one city or town reading a particular book by starting a parish-wide program (i.e., “St. John the Evangelist Reads!”). Organize discussion groups around program titles after Mass or on an evening during the week. Get everyone on the same “page”!
- ◆ Make arrangements with your local Catholic booksellers to offer a special discount to parishes in your area for placing significant orders for books featured in CatholicsRead.
- ◆ Co-sponsor a talk and signing party for selected authors whose works are featured in CatholicsRead. Work with your local bookstore and publishers to arrange to get the author to the party.

## Bookstore Participation

- ♦ Develop a special CatholicsRead mailing or e-mail blast to customers, highlighting the titles you carry in your store. Offer to place special orders for those titles you don't stock.
- ♦ Host special reading groups or in-store discussions on various titles featured in the CatholicsRead program.
- ♦ Host special events throughout the year for CatholicsRead: author lectures, children's bible story hours, book signings. Advertise the events in parish bulletins, diocesan papers, and on your website .
- ♦ Contact parishes in your area and make them aware of the CatholicsRead program and your willingness to obtain the titles they need for their parish participation in the program.
- ♦ Set up a small display in your store with the CatholicsRead books and signage featuring the CatholicsRead logo. Contact the CBPA office for a camera-ready version of the logo.
- ♦ Contact local parishes and offer to do a book exhibit after all Masses one weekend. Take orders for books and encourage buyers to pick up their books from your store when they arrive. Some may have never been in your store before — but will surely come back once they stop by and see the great books and gifts you carry!
- ♦ Put a CatholicsRead poster in your store window.
- ♦ Devote a special page to CatholicsRead title on your store website.
- ♦ If you produce a printed catalog, list the CatholicsRead titles in a special section. Or, put the CatholicsRead logo by those books throughout your catalog.
- ♦ Develop billing/invoice inserts that feature CatholicsRead titles.
- ♦ Send a press release to your local diocesan and neighborhood papers and include your store information as the place where books and other resources for the program can be obtained.
- ♦ Order a copy of one of the musical CDs that are part of the supplemental resources in the program and play the music in your store or as "on-hold" music. Be sure to have copies on hand to sell when people ask "what's playing?"

## Individual Participation

- ♦ Make a reading commitment for the year—a book a month, one book per featured Bible book. ‡ Invite a group of friends to read the same book and share your reflections at a monthly gathering or in an online chat room.
- ♦ Read the selected Scripture summaries and choose the one that resonates most strongly. Buy and read a few of the recommended titles for that book. Then purchase the same titles for your friends and family as gifts.
- ♦ Use the Scripture and one of the recommended titles as guides for your daily journaling or reflection.
- ♦ Make the daily readings from the Lectionary part of your daily devotion or spiritual reading. Accompany that with a title selected from one of the participating publishers.
- ♦ Encourage your parish and your local bookstore to participate in the program. Change your community for the better, one book at a time!

## ***How can you learn more?***

If you would like more information about CatholicsRead or if you have ideas and success stories to contribute, please contact our office:

Cliff Knighten, Executive Director,  
Catholic Book Publishers Association  
11703 Huebner Road Suite 106 - 622  
San Antonio, TX 78230

P: 210-368-2055 Fax: 210-368-2601 E: [cliffk@cbpa.org](mailto:cliffk@cbpa.org)  
[www.CatholicsRead.org](http://www.CatholicsRead.org) is offered to the public as a FREE service.

## **Participating Publishers**

include but are not limited to:

ACTA Publications ♦ Catholic Book Publishing Corporation ♦  
Closer To God Books ♦ The Crossroad Publishing Company ♦  
Emmaus Road Publishing ♦ Wm. B . Eerdmans Publishing Co ♦  
Good Ground Press ♦ HarperOne ♦ Liguori Publications ♦  
Liturgical Press ♦ Liturgy Training Publications ♦  
Loyola Press ♦ New City Press ♦ Our Sunday Visitor ♦  
Paulist Press ♦ St Anthony Messenger Press/Servant Books ♦  
Saint Mary's Press ♦ USCCB Publishing ♦  
The Word Among Us Publishing ♦ World Library Publications

