

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE
SESSION THREE—FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY
READING LIST

- *Armstrong, Regis, OFM and Ignatius Brady, OFM. *Francis and Clare: The Complete Works*. Mahwah, N.J., Paulist Press, 1982.
Scholarly translations and introductions to the lives and writings of Francis and Clare. The standard text.
- **Bodo, Murray, OFM. *Poetry as Prayer: St. Francis of Assisi*. Boston: Pauline Books and Media, 2003.
A small book that opens up the Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon and invites us to experience St. Francis' poetic verse as prayer.
- Chesterton, G.K. *Saint Francis of Assisi*. New York: Image Book/Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc., 2001, orig. pub. 1924.
A fascinating, humanist view of St. Francis by English essayist, novelist, playwright, Catholic apologist and journalist.
- House, Adrian. *Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life*. Mahwah, NJ: Hidden Spring/Paulist Press. 2000, 2001.
An excellent, well-researched, balanced biography of St. Francis. Includes The Rule of St. Francis. Written by an English layman.
- McBrien, Richard P. *Lives of the Saints: From Mary and St. Francis of Assisi to John XXIII and Mother Teresa*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001. Paperback, 2003.

Extremely informative and interesting one-volume collection of saints' lives, arranged by calendar of feast days of the saints. Includes a helpful time line of the church and its saints by century side by side a time line of secular history by century. Also, helpful 50-plus pages of introductory material on saints and spirituality.

- Nerburn, Kent. *Make Me an Instrument of Your Piece*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1999.
Popular treatment of Franciscan spirituality by a Protestant layman.
- Short, William J. *Poverty and Joy: Franciscan Tradition*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999.
Franciscan spirituality by a remarkable Catholic scholar.

(Source: Patricia Blakely for EDFP, Fall, 2004)