

Recommended Books for Catholic Kids

Below is a list of books and short explanation of content recommended for Catholic Children and Teens: Great summer reading. All of them are available on Amazon.com.

The Seed Who Was Afraid to Be Planted, by Anthony DeStefano, Illustrated by Erwin Madrid:

This is one, of a collection of books by Anthony DeStefano. He has an incredible gift for taking lessons from the Gospels and weaving them into parable-like stories with lessons that are both easy to understand and still carry the depth of Christ's teachings. This book (as well as all the others in this collection) are written in fun to read rhyme, they usually open or close with the actual Bible verses that inspired the story. Illustrated by a variety of artists, each book has bright, creative, detailed images that help tell the story and convey the emotions of the storyline. These books are very good for sharing the message of the Gospel in bite size, memorable chunks.

Catholic Funny Fil-Ins: Saints Spectacular! by Karen and Tommy Tighe, Illustrated by Jason Back. Fill in a list of random adjectives, verbs, and names, and you suddenly have a hilarious story about Catholic life. This second edition features fill-ins all about spectacular Saints. These are always more fun with two or more people, so I think they would be a perfect way to promote some non-screen-family together time. This is such a fun and easy activity to get kids laughing and enjoying these of their Catholic faith. With cute illustrations complimenting the new Saint for each page, here are an infinite number of ways to complete the stories and therefore the book can be used again and again. Plus, each fill-in ends with a short interesting bio of the Saint, giving context to the fill-in-story and doing a little catechesis along the way!

Martyred: The story of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz by Susan Tan: (for Teens)

It is exciting to find books intended for teens about "obscure" Saints instead of the same (beloved of course) favorites. This book tells the story of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, a Chinese-Filipino martyr. Born around the year 1600 and raised Christian he was falsely accused of murder and left the area with a group of Dominican priests. The original plan was for him to stop near the beginning of their journey and resettle away from the accusations, but instead he traveled with them to Japan where they made waves by entering the country both as foreigners and missionaries. Lorenzo and his companions were arrested, tortured, and tempted to apostatize, but all died brave, gruesome, martyr's death. A powerful story at that, but what is also interesting is the Lorenzo wasn't a priest himself as many martyrs from this era were – he was a layman, and a young husband and father. His story is intriguing and is a very interesting novelization of his life. The writing is compelling for a teen reader and is certainly suspenseful enough to keep them turning the pages.

Extreme Blindside, by Leslea Wahl

A book for teens that brings relatable characters, interesting situations, dramatic problems and moral decisions into print. The Blindside series (Pauline Teen) uses popular interests like sports and mystery/suspense to pull the reader in and present them with situations that become Catholic teaching through the gentle act of storytelling. This book is a good wholesome book that your teen will enjoy reading.