DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS


Over 300 articles with bibliographies on Catholic spiritual concepts and schools (but not individual writers).


Lengthy articles on themes, movements, regions, and periods in Christian spirituality – but not biographies of individual persons. Also includes a section of short essays on the relationships between spirituality and other disciplines (e.g. culture, history, psychology, science).


This older work is still useful, since its replacement has a thoroughly different editorial stance. It includes articles on spiritual schools, writers, and themes. The Catholic tradition is well represented along with Orthodoxy, Protestantism, and to a lesser extent non-Christian religions.


Brief articles on concepts, traditions, saints, and periods – all chosen and written by a major scholar of formative spirituality. There are no bibliographies, but, as the subtitle indicates, the articles are nonetheless “inspirational”.


A similar work to that by Susan Muto above. Some articles include bibliographic references.
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 2350.2 .W34 1993]

A dictionary emphasizing the practice of individual piety, with articles on various shrines, devotions, sodalities, and confraternities.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BV 4571.3 .E53 2006]

An inter-faith encyclopedia with lengthy articles (including bibliographies) about spiritual concepts, leaders, practices, and traditions.

[Trinity Reference Area – BL 31 .F47]

Includes articles on persons and topics from Christianity as well as non-Christian religions. Articles range from one line to a page. A fine one-volume work for the non-expert.

[Available online for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .N44 2003]

The major English-language encyclopedia on Catholic topics, this work contains some 17,000 articles, each with a bibliography. There is an article entitled “Spirituality, Christian (History of)” which identifies major spiritual masters and schools for each of which there is an article in the encyclopedia. Unfortunately many of the articles in the 2003/online edition are reprints from the 1967 edition without any updating.

[Available online: http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/]  
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .C25 1907]

For over fifty years this work was the chief source of information on the Catholic Church in English-speaking countries. Owing to its length (it has almost twice as many words as the New Catholic Encyclopedia) and its emphasis on historical articles, it is still useful.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 841 .D67 1932]

The most comprehensive reference work in the field with long, signed articles covering concepts of spiritual theology and explaining their origin and development through the centuries with frequent references to sources. In French.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BV 5082.2 .D59 1998]

Over 600 articles on mystics and spiritual themes. In Italian.
**HANDBOOKS AND GUIDES**

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BV 4501.3 .B535 2005]

Introductory essays on the scriptural background and historical development of Christian spirituality, as well as the interplay between spirituality and other theological and social science disciplines.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BV 5032 .T3513 1932]

A handbook covering the general principles of the spiritual life and each of its three stages as conceived in the traditional manner (purgative, illuminative, unitive). Excellent bibliographies.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BX 2350.2 .M884 1994]

A guide for reading programs for individuals and groups. Suggested readings on specific topics (e.g. the desert experience) from Scripture, spiritual classics, and modern spiritual works.

[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BV5082.2 .B68 1978]

A selective bibliography of primary and secondary sources on mystics and mysticism suitable for the general reader. Arranged chronologically.

**SUMMARIES AND COLLECTIONS**

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 885 .M2 1965]

Four to five page summaries of over 300 major Catholic works, including historical, philosophical, theological, spiritual, and devotional literature.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 885 .T73 1987]

An anthology of outstanding Catholic literature from the first century to modern times. Lengthy excerpts from the writings of mystics, theologians, and poets.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – PN 485 .E53 2004]

Chapters on almost eighty major pieces of Catholic literature. Each chapter includes a biography of the author, a plot summary, an essay on major themes, and an essay on the critical reception of the work.

**Masterplots II: Christian Literature.** Edited by John K. Roth. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 4 volumes.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BR 117 .M15 2008]

Three to five page summaries of over 500 pieces of Christian literature – both fiction and non-fiction. Includes classic and contemporary works from a variety of Christian traditions.

**HISTORIES**

Each of these works is a chronological presentation of the development of Christian spirituality from the early Church to modern times.


[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BV 5077 .E85 M34]


[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BV 4501.2 .S87 1986]


[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BV 4490 .H513 1963]


[St. Michael's 3rd Floor - BQT 2163 .G3 E5]


[St. Michael's 3rd Floor – BV 5021 .P5813 1953]
# Finding More Resources

**Bibliographia internationalis spiritualitatis.**  
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BX 2350.2 .B52 (1966 – present)]

An annual list of books and articles in the field of Catholic spirituality. The most recent volume lists almost 8,000 items. No annotations.

**Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI).**  
[Available online (1981 – present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]  

Over 200,000 bibliographic citations to Catholic books, book reviews, and journal articles from more than 160 Catholic magazines. A much larger number of articles on historical topics will be found in the older volumes of the print version.

**ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials.**  
[Available online (1949 – present) for UofT use: http://www.library.utoronto.ca]

Over one million bibliographic citations to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion.

It is possible to search the *ATLA Religion Database* and the *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index* at the same time: when you are using one or the other index, click on the blue “Choose Databases” tab at the top of the webpage, place checkmarks against both indexes, and then click on the “Continue” tab.