



## Associates Reading List Associates of the Order of the Ascension

**During your four month discernment/testing period** -- Read (or reread) Esther deWaal's *Seeking God: The Way of Saint Benedict*

**During your first year, after becoming an Associate**, we'd like you to read two books that may help ground you in some of the "common language" of the Order. Read Michelle Heyne's *In Your Holy Spirit: Traditional Spiritual Practices in Today's Christian Life* and Robert Gallagher's *In Your Holy Spirit: Shaping the Parish through Spiritual Practice*.

**In future years** read two books each year in the field of Ascetical/pastoral theology and/or organization development.

At least one is to come from this reading list. Some years the Order may suggest a specific book and may establish a forum for conversation among Associates. It's your choice as to whether to join in that reading and conversation.

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### Discernment/Testing four months

*Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*, Esther de Wall, Liturgical Press

### Your First year

[\*In Your Holy Spirit: Traditional Spiritual Practices in Today's Christian Life\*](#), Michelle Heyne, 2011, Ascension Press,

[\*In Your Holy Spirit: Shaping the Parish Through Spiritual Practice\*](#), Robert A. Gallagher 2011, Ascension Press

# General Reading List

***Additional books will be added over time***

[\*Fill All Things: The Dynamics of Spirituality in the Parish Church\*](#), Robert A. Gallagher 2008, Ascension Press

[\*The Nearness of God: Parish Ministry as Spiritual Practice\*](#), Julia Gatta

[\*Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality\*](#), Julia Gatta

## Benedictine Spirituality

Living with Contradiction, Esther deWaal

A Life-giving Way: A Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict, Esther deWaal

*The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*, Joan Chittister

*A Blessed Life*, Will Derkse

*Done and Left Undone*, Scott Benhase, OA

## Books by Martin Thornton

Christian Proficiency - "Proficiency" is not a term that readily comes to mind when one thinks of the spiritual life. Nevertheless, it is the term used by medieval writers on spirituality to distinguish those who are no longer beginners but who have not yet attained to perfection. The "Proficient" is best described as one who has an adult relationship with God. The book sets out to describe what this level of spirituality looks like and how one might achieve it. - Matthew Dallman

Pastoral Theology: a reorientation [Was also issued by Cowley as *The Heart of the Parish: Theology of the Remnant*, 1989.] *There is nothing so contagious as holiness, nothing more pervasive than Prayer. This is precisely what the traditional Church means by evangelism and what distinguishes it from recruitment.* –M. Thornton

These two books have been important resources in OA's work. Our hope is that Associates will read both before moving onto other books by Thornton.

Other Thornton books -- see [http://akensidepress.com/thornton/books\\_articles/](http://akensidepress.com/thornton/books_articles/)

About Martin Thornton - <http://akensidepress.com/thornton/about/>

## Books by Kenneth Leech

*Soul Friend: Spiritual Direction in the Modern World*

*True Prayer: An Invitation to Christian Spirituality*

*Subversive Orthodoxy: Traditional Faith & Radical Commitment*

## Books by Evelyn Underhill

Concerning the Inner Life – three address to clergy, 1926. The Heart of Personal Religion; The goals of Inner Life: Contemplation and Creative Work

Worship – Especially sections on the Holy Eucharist and the Anglican Tradition

The Mystery of Sacrifice: A Meditation on the Liturgy

The Spiritual Life

The School of Charity: Meditations on the Christian Creed

## Organization Development Books

*The Corporate Culture: Survival Guide*, Edgar Schein, Jossey – Bass, San Francisco

*Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence*, Goleman, Boyatzis, McKee, HBS Press, 2002.

*Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*, Peter L. Steinke

*Organization Development & Change*, Thomas Cummings and Christopher Worley, South-Western College Publishing, Cincinnati, 1997 (or most recent edition)