Culture
Book Reviews



(Unsplash/freestocks)

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In fall 2025, more than 150 NCR Forward members answered the question, "Tell us the name of a book, fiction or nonfiction, that you enjoyed, and/or made a lasting impression on you." Last week we reported their answers for fiction and memoir. Below is a compilation of their responses in five nonfiction categories.

Titles recommended by multiple people are indicated by an asterisk.

Faith, God and the spiritual journey

- *Ladder to the Light* by Steven Charleston
- *Saint Francis of Assisi* by G.K. Chesterton
- *In Search of Belief* by Joan Chittister
- *The Awakened Way* by Suzanne Giesemann
- *Living Presence* by Kabir Helminski
- *Ask the Beasts* by Elizabeth Johnson
- *Life Is Messy* by Matthew Kelly
- *Holy Moments* by Matthew Kelly
- *Every Day Sacred, Everywhere Beauty* by Mary Lou Kownacki
- *Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence
- *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- *Our Hearts Are Restless* by Richard Lischer
- *Jesus* by James Martin
- *New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton
- *The Seven Storey Mountain** by Thomas Merton
- *Lost Christianity* by Jacob Needleman
- *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue
- *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr
- *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr
- *The Divine Dance** by Richard Rohr
- *The Tears of Things** by Richard Rohr
- *The Universal Christ** by Richard Rohr
- *Cherished Belonging** by Richard Rohr
- *Wild Man to Wise Man* by Richard Rohr
- *A Hill of Beans* by Valerie Schultz

- *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu
- *When No Thing Works* by Norma Kaweloku Wong

Justice, conscience and the moral life

- *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle
- *Barking to the Choir* by Gregory Boyle
- *Cherished Belonging* by Gregory Boyle
- *Spirituality of the Beatitudes* by Michael H. Crosby
- *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- *Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop* by Lee Drutman
- *Separation of Church and Hate** by John Fugelsang
- *Theology of Liberation* by Gustavo Gutiérrez
- *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt
- *Less Is More* by Jason Hickel
- *Unprotected Texts* by Jennifer Wright Knust
- *Christianity's Dangerous Memory* by Diarmuid O'Murchu
- *Divine Radiance in Human Evolution* by Diarmuid O'Murchu
- *A Problem from Hell** by Samantha Power
- *Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists* by Raghuram Rajan and Luigi Zingales
- *Sacrament of Same-Sex Marriage* by Bridget Burke Ravizza
- *The Baptizing of America* by Rabbi James Rudin
- *Human Scale* by Kirkpatrick Sale
- *What Money Can't Buy* by Michael Sandel
- *Grace at the Table* by Arthur Simon and David Beckmann
- *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder
- *On Freedom* by Timothy Snyder
- *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams
- *Sources of the Self* by Charles Taylor

Creation, ecology and our common home

- *The Unsettling of America* by Wendell Berry
- *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis
- *Climate Generation* by Lorna Gold
- *Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green

• *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
• *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl
• *The Light Eaters* by Zoë Schlanger

Suffering, death, healing and hope

• *The Tenderness of God* by Gillian Ahlgren
• *Elderhood* by Louise Aronson
• *How We Learn to be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde
• *Imagine Heaven* by John Burke
• *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister
• *Dealing with Loneliness and Intimacy* by Michael Decewicz
• *While I Breathe, I Hope* by Richard Gaillardetz
• *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande
• I *See Satan Fall Like Lightening* by René Girard
• *Healing After Loss* by Martha Hickman
• *The 36-Hour Day* by Nancy Mace and Peter Rabins
• *How We Die* by Sherwin Nuland
• *Sacred Fire* by Ronald Rohlheiser
• *The Years of Ripening* by Joyce Rupp

History, biography, and the shaping of the church and world

• *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose
• *The Accidental President* by A.J. Baime
•*When the Church Was Young* by Marcellino D'Ambrosio
• *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan
• *Hitler's People* by Richard J. Evans
•*The Wager** by David Grann
• *Storm of Steel* by Ernst Jünger
•*Christianity* by Diarmaid MacCulloch
•*What Happened at Vatican II* by John W. O'Malley
•*Pope Leo XIV* by Christopher White

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