

Awesome Books for the Year of the Priest

Media Resources Available through the Diocese of New Ulm Youth Ministry Office
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We have so many heroic and holy lives of priests both in print and in film, but these are a few of my favorite books and the most adventurous of all those I've read:

101 Inspirational Stories of the Priesthood by Sr. Patricia Proctor, is one of a series of inspirational books compiled by the same editor. Read personal accounts from over a hundred different people witnessing to the impact made on their lives by dedicated, courageous priests. The book is copyright 2005 by the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare.

Edmond Campion: A Life by Evelyn Waugh is a great biography of a learned, witty, and chivalrous priest who put his gifts at the service of the Catholic Church in England in dangerous times. This is a simple, perfectly true story of heroism and holiness. This classic is copyrighted 1935 but reads like a contemporary novel.

The Shadow of His Wings: The True Story of Fr. Gereon Goldman, OFM is published by Ignatius Press in 2000. This is the astonishing autobiography of the harrowing experiences of a young German seminarian drafted into Hitler's dreaded SS. Without ever betraying his faith or his ideals, Gereon Goldman was able to complete his priestly training, be ordained, and secretly minister to German Catholics soldiers and innocent civilians caught up in the horror of war.

From Slave to Priest: A Biography of the Reverend Augustine Tolton, the First Black Priest of the United States by Caroline Hemesath is copyrighted 2006 by Ignatius Press. Born into a black Catholic slave family, Father Tolton conquered almost insurmountable odds to become a priest. At his early death at 43, this pioneer black American priest left behind a legacy of service to God, the Church, and his people.

The Scarlet and the Black: the True Story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, Hero of the Vatican Underground by J.P. Gallagher is copyright 2009 by Ignatius Press. The film by the same name is based on the same book under a different title in Italian. It has all the hallmarks of a bestselling fictional thriller, espionage, conspiracy, and the struggle against evil powers, undercover work by dark of night...but it's all true! The heroism and organizational networking of this Irish Monsignor saved the lives of thousands of Jews and POWs during the German occupation of Rome during WWII.