

# Mystagogy

*“To Lead Through the Mysteries”*

*April 16, 2018*

# **Catholic Basic**

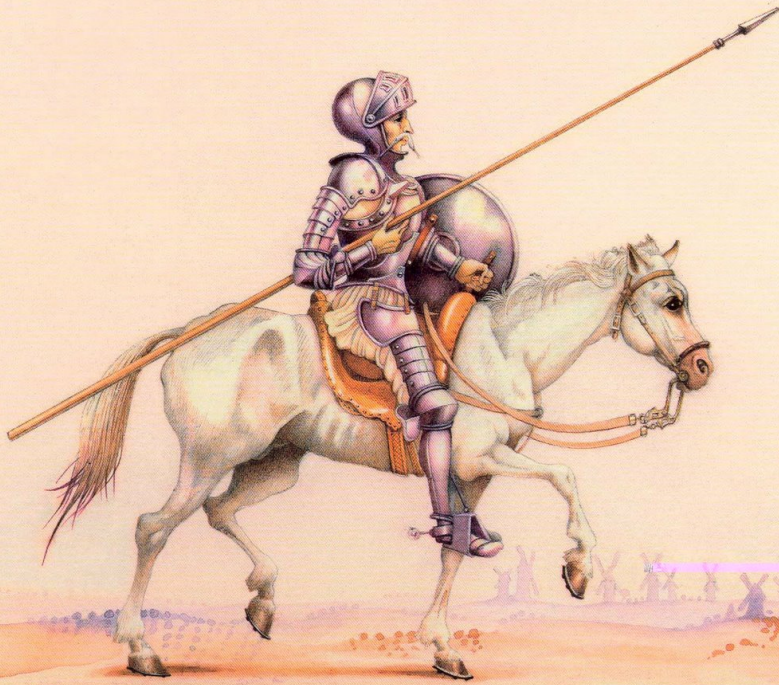
**What are the great Catholic books?**

**GREG'S  
RECOMMENDED  
CATHOLIC NOVELS\***

**\*Most information courtesy of  
Wikipedia**

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

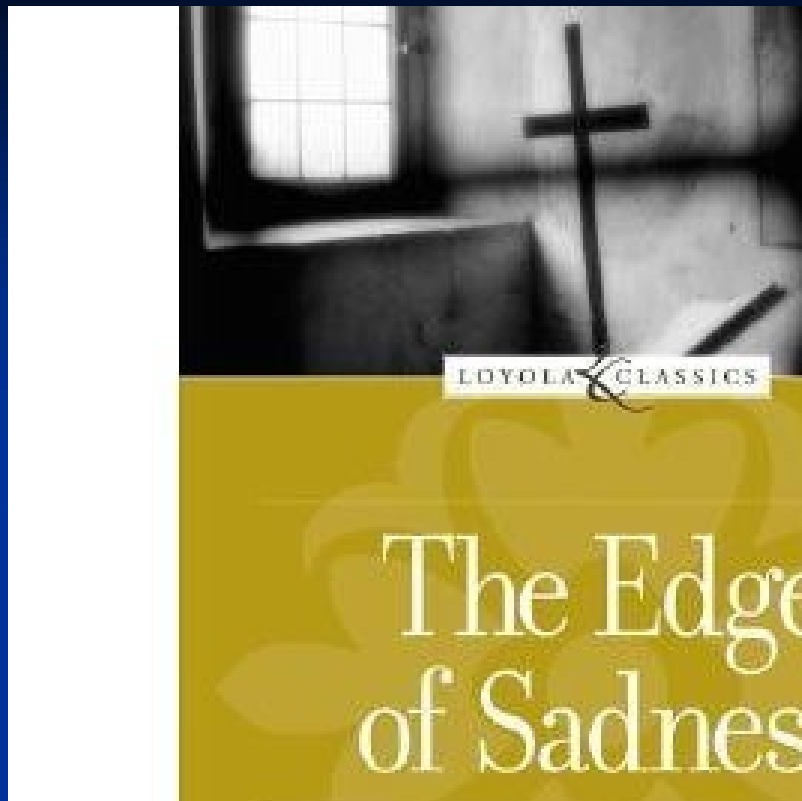
# Don Quijote de la Mancha



Versión de Vicente Muñoz Puelles  
Ilustraciones de Manuel Boix

AlgaR  
EDITORIAL





## **#5: *The Edge of Sadness*, by Edwin O'Connor**

Won the Pulitzer Prize in 1962

About a priest who is a recovering alcoholic

“It deals with friendship and loneliness, spirituality and newfound hope.”

## #4: Flannery O'Connor



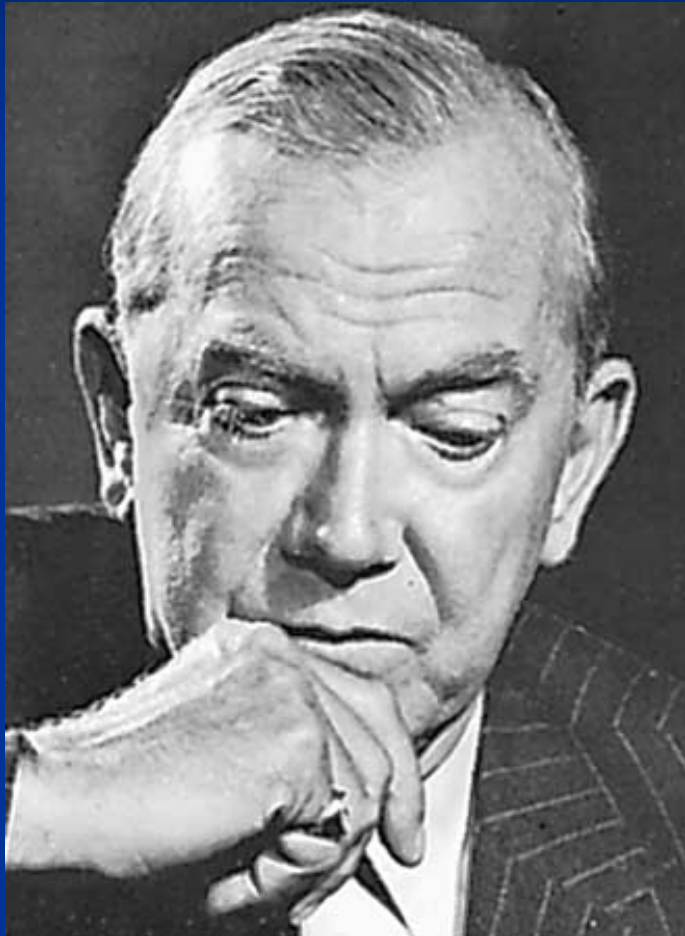
- 1925 – 1964
- She was a Catholic native of Georgia.
- Died young from lupus.

## #4: Flannery O'Connor



- She wrote 2 novels and 32 short stories. They tend to have strong religious and moral themes, but they don't generally involve Catholic characters.
- Her prayer journal was published in 2013.

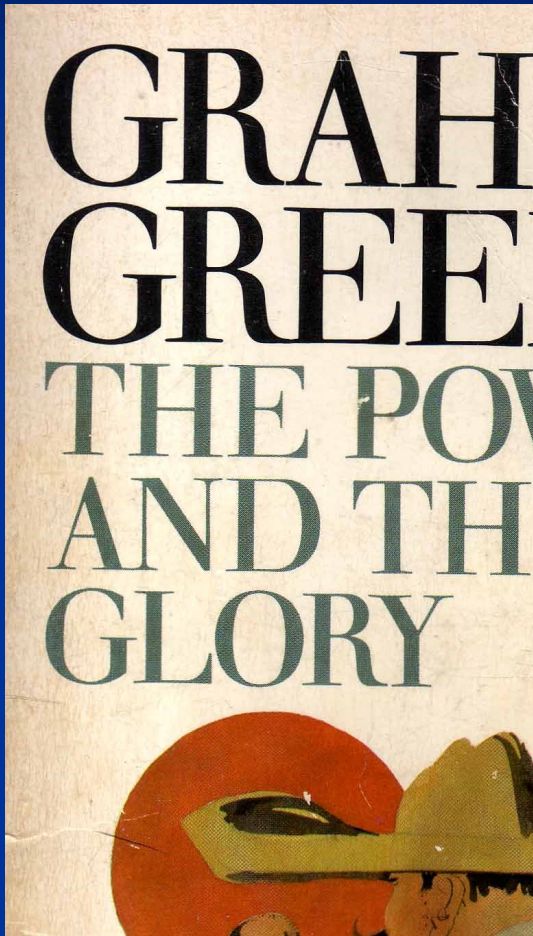
# #3: *The Power and the Glory*, by Graham Greene



- 1904 – 1991.
- A British convert to Catholicism, he wrestled with his faith a great deal later in life.



## #3: *The Power and the Glory*



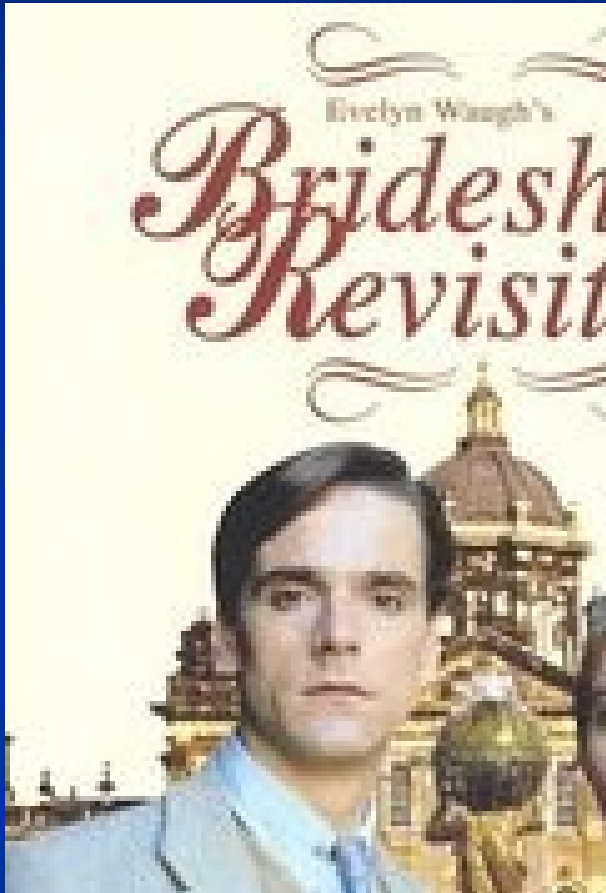
- Published in 1940.
- About a Catholic priest in 1930s Mexico, a time of violent persecution.
- A 1947 film version is called *The Fugitive*, and a 1961 TV version starred Laurence Olivier.

## #2: *Brideshead Revisited*, by Evelyn Waugh



- 1903 – 1966.
- Another British convert to Catholicism, Waugh was a staunch traditionalist and was upset by some of the changes from Vatican II.

## #2: *Brideshead Revisited*

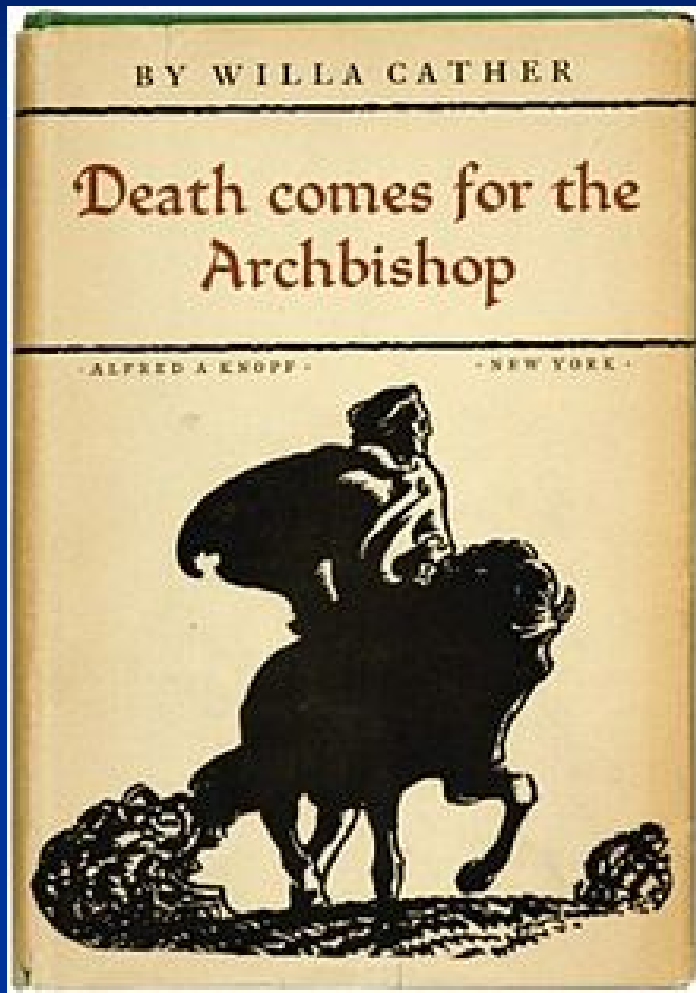


- Published in 1945.
- About an irreligious young man who falls in with a family of eccentric Catholic aristocrats between the World Wars.
- 11-part 1981 miniseries.
- 2008 movie

# ***#1: Death Comes for the Archbishop, by Willa Cather***

- 1873 – 1947.
- She wasn't even Catholic! Her family was Baptist, but she eventually became Episcopalian.

# #1: *Death Comes for the Archbishop*



- A beautiful story, based on real people—a French bishop and his best friend, a French priest, who are sent to the new Diocese of New Mexico in the mid-1800s.

# Joseph Miller's recommendations

- Joseph Loconte, *A Hobbit, A Wardrobe, and a Great War*.
- David Brooks, *The Road to Character*.
- Rodney Stark, *God's Battalions: The Case for the Crusades*.
- Thomas E. Woods, Jr., *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization*.
- Vinny Flynn, *7 Secrets of Confession*.
- John H. Carmichael, *Drunks & Monks*.

# **Living the Catholic Faith Today**

**I. Your personal relationship  
with Christ**

**II. Expressing your faith  
within the Church**

**III. Engaging with the culture**



# Christian Anthropology

“Being Catholic means living a totally Christian life and having a Catholic perspective. To Catholics, all people are basically good, but sin is a spiritual disease that wounded humankind initially and can kill humankind spiritually if left unchecked. Divine grace is the only remedy for sin, and the best source of divine grace is from the sacraments, which are various rites that Catholics believe have been created by Jesus and entrusted by him to his Church.”

# The Sacraments

Which sacrament must be received first?

Baptism

# The Sacraments

Which two sacraments can we receive  
virtually as often as we want to?

Eucharist

Reconciliation

# The Sacraments

Which other sacrament can we receive repeatedly on an as-needed basis?

Anointing of the sick

# The Sacraments

Which sacrament communicates to us not only God's grace but also His Real Presence?

Eucharist

# The Sacrament of Marriage

What are the three principal requirements of the “form” of a sacramental marriage?

1. A Catholic clergyman must preside
2. Two other witnesses must be present
3. Ceremony must take place in a Catholic church

# Catholic Prayer

Several are listed on the handout. Let's take a look at the last one, The Liturgy of the Hours.

# Spiritual reading

Catholic study Bibles

Look for *Nihil Obstat* and *Imprimatur*



# Spiritual reading

Bishop Robert Barron

Scott Hahn

# The Catholic Practice of “Retreats”

# The Precepts of the Church

Listed on the handout

## **II. Life in and amongst the Catholic Church**

# Baptism

One way we can participate in the broader life of the Church by getting our children baptized and by acting as godparents.

# Baptism

What is the deal with “Baptism classes”?

# Baptism

What are parents' responsibilities with respect to their children's religious education?

# Baptism

What is the role of a godparent?

To be a role model and to help the godchild live a good Christian life.



# Baptism

Who is eligible to be a godparent?

1. Must be 16 years old
2. Must be Catholic and have received all 3 sacraments of initiation
3. Must be living a life consistent with the role

# Baptism

What if I don't have two people I can call upon to be my child's godparents?

If you have one Catholic who can be a godparent, a non-Catholic Christian can also serve as a "Christian witness."

# Baptism

If I am a godparent, what should I do to fulfill my godparently responsibilities?

Hmmmm

# After Baptism

Reconciliation

First Communion

Confirmation

# Funeral customs

1. Communal rosary the day before the funeral Mass.
2. The funeral Mass.
3. The graveside service.
4. The reception.

A small gift to the presiding priest.

# Masses for the Dead

A long-standing and beautiful Catholic tradition is that of arranging for a Mass to be specifically offered for the soul of a deceased loved one.

How do you do it?

## Monday, April 9

6:45 am.....Madden & Canary F

8:00 am.....Paul & Marcela Fetsch  
by Bob & Monica Noye

## Tuesday, April 10

6:45 am.....Luella Marx † by Joe & C

8:00 am.....PTO Mass

# Parish Involvement

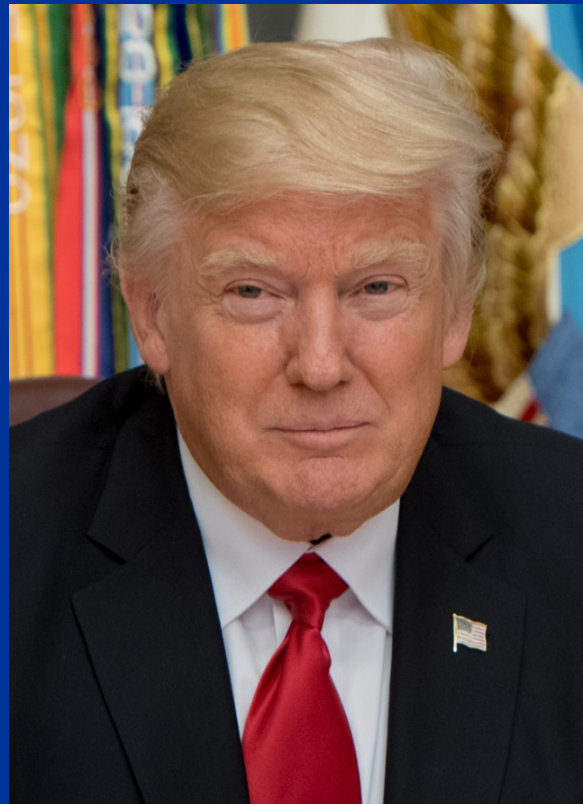
We have brought you many of our St. Monica ministries this year, in hopes that you found some of interest!



# Parish Ministries

1. Liturgical – lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers
2. Spiritual – Bible studies, Eucharistic adoration
3. Outreach – Austin Street Shelter, Stephen Ministers, St. Vincent de Paul
4. Adult Ministries – Women’s Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Pro-Life

# III. Catholicism, Citizenship, and the Culture



# Catholicism & Citizenship

- The bedrock principle is rendering to God and to Caesar what is rightfully theirs.
- Civil disobedience can be justifiable and necessary, but it's not the default position.
- Good Catholic citizenship includes prudent exercise of the right to vote.

# Catholicism & Citizenship

For a joint statement by the bishops of Dallas and Fort Worth on the faithful Catholic's obligation to be an informed voter, see:

[https://www.prolifedallas.org/pages/Joint\\_Statement](https://www.prolifedallas.org/pages/Joint_Statement)

# Catholicism & Citizenship

- Not every moral duty must necessarily be written into the civil law.
- Sunday Blue Laws
- Laws against blasphemy
- Laws compelling support of our parents
- Laws making every lie a crime

# Problem Areas

1. Life and Death
2. Marriage and Sexuality
3. Religious Liberty

# Life and Death

## Abortion

- ❖ Its grave sinfulness is part of the Magisterium of the Church.
- ❖ “[T]he law must provide appropriate penal sanctions for every deliberate violation of the child’s rights.” CCC 2273.

# Life and Death

## Abortion

- ❖ There are those who argue the law should actually move the other direction. *See After-birth Abortion: Why Should the Baby Live?*



# Life and Death

## End-of-life issues

- Euthanasia or “mercy killing” is contrary to Catholic moral teaching.
- Using every possible means to prolong life, however, is not always required.
- Suicide? Assisted suicide?

# Life and Death

## End-of-life issues

- Further reading—by Archbishop Gomez
- Advance medical directives—the St. Thomas More Society website

# Marriage and Sexuality

Perhaps the area in which there is the greatest conflict between Christian morality and secular morality.

# Marriage and Sexuality

The sexual revolution amounts to a reversal of Christian sexual morality in virtually every respect.

Only a vestigial disapproval of adultery seems to linger.

# Catholicism, Divorce, and Remarriage

1. Divorce without remarriage
2. Divorce, remarriage, and Communion
3. The Catholic bishops are in noticeable disarray on point 2, and Pope Francis seems disinclined to do anything about it
4. Ross Douthat, *To Change the Church: Pope Francis and the Future of Catholicism*

# Marriage and Sexuality

Catholic teaching about homosexuality.

“They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of **unjust** discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” CCC 2358.

# “Same-Sex Marriage”

Confusion reigns because (i) “marriage” and (ii) “civil marriage” or “legal marriage” are different things, from the Catholic perspective.

Is marriage a real (albeit spiritual) bond? Or is it a social convention—a contract that a court or a party can end according to whatever the civil law says at the time?

# “Same-Sex Marriage”

As best I can tell, the Catholic Church’s view is that same-sex relationships should not receive formal legal recognition and certainly should not be called “marriages.”

“Civil unions”? “Domestic partnerships”?

Defined-term marriages?



# “Same-Sex Marriage”

As you probably already know, in 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that states must give legal recognition to “same-sex marriages.”

Is polygamy next? In March 2018, a federal trial judge rejected a challenge to anti-polygamy laws brought by a man and two women. *Collier v. Fox*.

# Religious Liberty

The Church recognizes freedom of conscience “within due limits” in religious matters.

Religious exemptions to specific laws:

- Ancient Romans and the Jews
- Conscientious objectors to fighting in war
- Prohibition and sacramental wine

# Religious Liberty

Congress may not prohibit the “free exercise” of religion. By Supreme Court decision, the States can’t either.

In the early 1990’s, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

# Religious Liberty

Religious liberty is not nearly as popular today. It is viewed as a code for “license to discriminate against homosexual persons.”

Some politicians avoid saying “free exercise of religion.” They say “freedom of worship.”

# Religious Liberty

Recent Flashpoints—contraception and abortifacient drugs

- *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* (2014)
- *Zubik v. Burwell* (2016) (the *Little Sisters of the Poor* case)

# Religious Liberty

Current Flashpoint—the wedding caterer cases

- *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*
- State religious freedom acts and the blowback

# Religious Liberty

Current Flashpoint—the abortion-speech case

- *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*
- California state law requiring crisis pregnancy centers to inform women that free or low-cost abortions are available through state programs

# Questions?

