

of the orthodox fathers, receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety and reverence all the books both of the Old and of the New Testament-seeing that one God is the Author of both ...” [Session 4, April 8, 1546]

**Saint Teresa of Avila** (1515 -1582 AD)

**Canonized in 1622 AD** by Pope Gregory XV.

“Within this majesty I was given knowledge of a truth that is the fulfillment of all truths. I don’t know how to explain this because I didn’t see anything. I was told without seeing anyone, but I clearly understood that it was Truth telling me: ‘This is no small thing I do for you, because it is one of the things for which you owe Me a great deal, for all the harm that comes to the world comes from its not knowing the truths of Scripture in clarity and truth; not one iota of Scripture will fall short.’” [La Vida, ch. 40, #1.]

**Pope Pius 6th** (April 1st 1778 AD)

“BELOVED SON ... you judge exceedingly well, that the faithful should be excited to the reading of the Holy Scriptures .. to be left open to every one, to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine, to eradicate the errors which are widely disseminated in these corrupt times ... by publishing the sacred writings in the language of your country, suitable to every one’s capacity ...” (See [Photograph at Website](#))

**Pope Leo XIII** [Prov.Deus ( Nov. 18, 1893)]

“The solicitude of the apostolic office naturally urges and even compels us...to desire that this grand source of Catholic revelation (the Bible) should be made safely and abundantly accessible to the flock of Jesus Christ”

“...For sacred Scripture is not like other books. Dictated by the Holy Ghost, it contains things of the deepest importance, which in many instances are most difficult and obscure. To understand

and explain such things there is always required the ‘coming’ of the same Holy Ghost; that is to say, His light and His grace” Granted an indulgence for reading Bible for at least 25 minutes.

**Pope St. Pius X** (1903-1914 AD) “Nothing would please us more than to see our beloved children form the habit of reading the Gospels - not merely from time to time, but every day.”

**Pope Pius XII** 1943 AD

“Our predecessors, when the opportunity occurred, recommended the study or preaching or in fine the pious reading and meditation of the sacred Scriptures. ... ”

**Vatican II** [Dei Verbum, 21. 1965 AD]

“Church has always venerated the Scriptures...”

**Pope John Paul I** August 27, 1978

“... We wish to remind the entire Church that its first duty is that of evangelization. Our Predecessor, Paul VI, presented the directions for this in his memorable document: animated by faith, nourished by the Word of God, and strengthened by the heavenly food of the Eucharist, one should study every way, seek every means ‘in season and out of season’ (2 Tim 4:2), to spread the word, to proclaim the message, to announce that salvation which creates in the soul a restlessness to pursue truth and at the same time offers strength from above.

If all the sons and daughters of the Church would know how to be tireless missionaries of the Gospel, a new flowering of holiness and renewal would spring up in this world that thirsts for love and for truth.

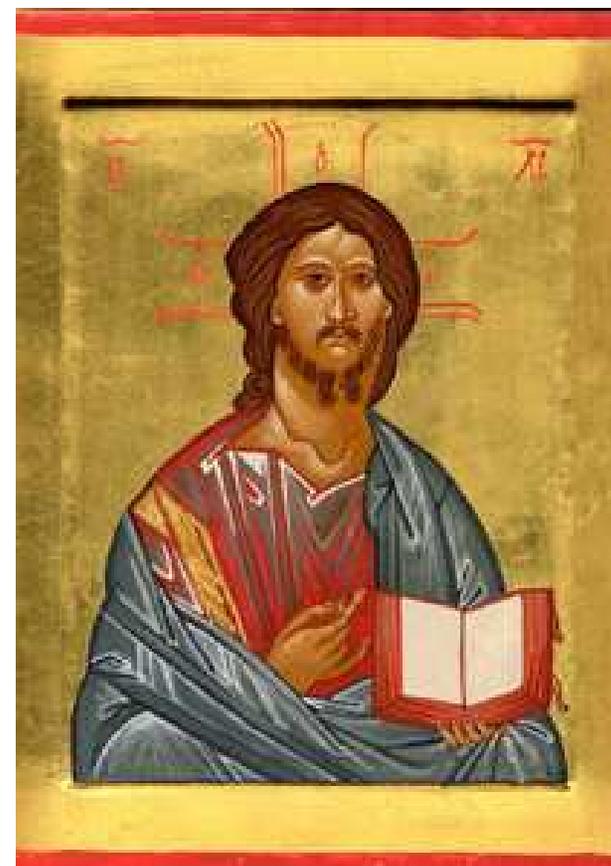
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## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: ON READING THE BIBLE

**St. John Chrysostom** (407 AD) Doctor of Ch.

“To become adult Christians you must learn familiarity with the scriptures”  
[On Lt. to the Ephesians - Education of Children.]

“But what is the answer to these charges? ‘I am not,’ you will say, ‘one of the monks, but I have both a wife and children, and the care of a household.’ This is what has ruined everything, your thinking that the reading of scripture is for monks only, when you need it more than they do. Those who are placed in the world, and who receive wounds every day have the most need of medicine. So, far worse even than not reading the scriptures is the idea that they are superfluous. Such things were invented by the devil.” [St. John’s Second Hom. on Matthew]

**Pope St. Gregory I** (died 604 AD)

“The Emperor of heaven, the Lord of men and of angels, has sent you His epistles for your life’s advantage—and yet you neglect to read them eagerly. Study them, I beg you, and meditate daily on the words of your Creator. Learn the heart of God in the words of God, that you may sigh more eagerly for things eternal, that your soul may be kindled with greater longings for heavenly joys.” [Letters 5, 46. (EnchBibl 31)]

**St. Isidore** (560-636 AD) Bishop and Dr of Ch.

“Prayer purifies us, reading instructs us... If a man wants to be always in God’s company, he must pray regularly and read regularly. When we pray, we talk to God; when we read, God talks to us. All spiritual growth comes from reading and reflection. By reading we learn what we did not know; by reflection we retain what we have learned. Reading the holy Scriptures (the Bible) confers two benefits. It

trains the mind to understand them; it turns man’s attention from the follies of the world and leads him to the love of God. Two kinds of study are called for here. We must first learn how the Scriptures are to be understood, and then see how to expound them with profit and in a manner worthy of them. A man must first be eager to understand what he is reading before he is fit to proclaim what he has learned. The conscientious reader will be more concerned to carry out what he has read than merely to acquire knowledge of it... Learning unsupported by grace may get into our ears; it never reaches the heart. It makes a



Lindisfarne Gospels St.Matt. English Translation 950 AD

great noise outside but serves no inner purpose. But when God’s grace touches our innermost minds to bring understanding, his word which has been received by the ear sinks deep into the heart.” [Office: April 4]

**St. Venerable Bede** (died 735 AD)

He is the first person known to translate the Gospel into Old English (Anglo-Saxon.)

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux** (1090-1153 AD)

Doctor and Father of the Church.

“The person who thirsts for God eagerly studies and meditates on the inspired Word, knowing that there, he is certain to find the One for whom he thirsts.”  
[Comm. Song of Songs, Sermon 23:3.]

**St. Bonaventure** (1221-1274 AD)

In his day, there where no public schools and only the wealthy could afford private tutors. Therefore, most people could not read or write. St. Bonaventure had composed a copy of “Biblia Pauperum” which means the “Bible of the poor.” It contained a collection of pictures illustrating the important events of the Old Testament. It also contained parallel scenes in the New Testament and it showed how the Old Testament prefigured and was fulfilled in the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. This helped the people to learn God’s Word by showing them the important stories of both the Old and New Testament. He was canonized a Saint by Pope Sixtus IV in 1482 AD. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Sixtus V in 1588 AD.

**Decree of the Council of Trent**

“[ The holy synod] following the examples