



From Deacon Mark Miller's Desk

Whoever said/sang, "It's summertime, and the livin' is easy" probably didn't have young children. As any parent can tell you, it wasn't so easy when their children were home all day, every day. It's only now, with students heading back to school, that frazzled moms and dads have a chance to work some personal time into their schedules. It's time to pray, study scripture, and, perhaps, learn more about our "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith."

If you're interested in studying, but even with school in session don't have a lot of time to do so, there's a new series of books from the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops you might want to check out.

There are five books, each one addressing an essential element of the faith. They are written in short chapters and appropriate for high school students through senior citizens. The books are:

Essentials for Christian Living – guides the reader through fundamental prayers of the Catholic faith from the earliest years of the church. Find simple formulas of Catholic doctrine, with a special focus on the Creed, the sacraments, and the 10 Commandments. The guide has space for the reader to journal and note their personal reflections. [\$7.95/125]

Essential Guide to Knowing the Faith – a "little catechism" for Catholic families, also useful on the pastoral level and faithful to the second Vatican Council, so that Christian believers may both love their faith and give witness to it in truth. [\$6.95/66 pages]

Essential Guide to the Holy Bible – publications about biblical questions constitute a source of great interest in our culture. This guide is limited to several brief –but indispensable – ideas and concepts that are vital to people who want to study the "Book of Books" – the Bible. [\$6.95/88 pages]

Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints – explores basic elements of the liturgical calendar and the seasons that make up the liturgical year and identifies the characteristics of each season that should inform liturgical planning and celebration. This resource takes a brief look at the saints celebrated in the General Roman Calendar including the *Proper Liturgical*

Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America, highlighting some special observances associated with particular months and days. [\$9.95/132 pages]

Essential Guide to Angels – gives an account of how angels are present in the lives of the faithful and how these celestial spirits have been placed at our sides to protect us, instruct us, and guide us. [\$6.95/103 pages]

These and other resources are available at the USCCB website [store.usccb.org/search?q=essential+guide].

Some other shorter books that might be of interest include:

The Catholic Companion to Mary by Mary Kathleen Glavich

Waking Up Catholic: A Guide to Catholic Beliefs for Converts, Reverts, and Anyone Becoming Catholic by Chad R. Torgerson

The How-To Book of Sacramentals by Ann Ball

The How-To Book of Catholic Devotions by Mike Aquilina and Regis J. Flaherty

If you'd like to dig a little deeper into Church teaching, you might like:

Compendium – Catechism of the Catholic Church

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults