

## Suggested Reading List for Incoming JVs

*This list is by no means exhaustive but seeks to highlight some favorite resources over the years.*

*Our suggested "must reads" are **bolded**. Enjoy!*

### Spirituality, Prayer, Faith & Theology

- ***The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life*, James Martin, SJ.** [Also watch his upbeat lecture](#) at BC on joy & spirituality (Fr. Jim goes on at ~10:00).
- ***The Holy Longing (1999)*, Ronald Rolheiser.** Contending that the late 20<sup>th</sup> century is marked by a kind of spiritual restlessness, Rolheiser develops a Christian spirituality that he believes offers some definite direction for seekers.
- *Gracias (1993)*, Henri Nouwen. A series of journal entries about living with and learning from the people of Latin America.
- *The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola (2004)* Dean Brackley, S.J. Brings the wisdom of Ignatius Loyola to bear on some of the injustices that are rampant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It salutes the healing powers of humility and generosity in a world of many separations.
- [Theology Brewed in an African Pot \(2008\)](#), Agonkhanmeghe Orobator, SJ. Written by the current Provincial of East Africa, it seeks to accessibly articulate Christian doctrine, clarifying difference between African and Eurocentric perspectives.
- *Living Buddha, Living Christ (1995)* Thich Nhat Hanh. Zen monk and social activist Thich Nhat Hanh draws parallels between these Christianity and Buddhism with the theme of mindfulness.
- *Just Call me Lopez: Getting to the Heart of Ignatius Loyola (2012)* Margaret Silf. A 21<sup>st</sup> century woman meets the man who becomes the saint, and both are transformed by their unlikely friendship.
- *Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? (2012)*, Brian McLaren. On interreligious dialogue from a distinctly Christian perspective; great reflection on understanding "us" vs. "them." See a 13-min video introduction of the book called [Toward the Other](#).

### Simple Lifestyle

- ***Following Christ in a Consumer Society (1991)*, John Kavanaugh.** Considered a classic, offers a Catholic treatment of what it means to follow Christ in today's consumerist culture.
- [Simple Living: The Green Triangle \(2011\)](#), Rich Heffern in *National Catholic Reporter*. A brief article about the multifaceted benefits of simplicity.
- *Less is More: Embracing Simplicity for a Healthy Planet, a Caring Economy and a Lasting Happiness (2009)*, Cecile Andrews and Wanda Urbanska. A collection of essays on how

to divest gradually and live more in the present, while still attentive to technology, health, politics and the environment. "Simplicity is not a turning away. It is a rejoining."

- *Home Economics* (1987), Wendell Berry. An indictment of our present economic system and the foolish squandering of resources that it fosters.
- *The Gift of Simplicity* (2009), Br. Victor-Antoine D'Avila-Latourrette. Using lessons from Scripture, the author reminds us of what can be gained by living a life less cluttered by modern distractions and petty grievances to find freedom in Christian simplicity.

## Community

- *Community and Growth* (1989), Jean Vanier. On intentional community living by the founder of L'Arche.
- *Selected Writings, Dorothy Day* (2001) Robert Ellsberg, ed. A broad range of Day's writings on social, political and religious topics.
- *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* (2004), bell hooks. Grounded in storytelling, she encourages readers to confront the oppression that occurs at the intersections of race, gender and the dominant economic system with the open invitation to participate in "beloved communities where there is no domination."
- Nearly anything by Henri Nouwen. One brief summative piece with powerful reflection on community is *Moving from Solitude to Community to Ministry*, in *Leadership*, 1995, [available here](#).

## Social Justice

- *The Road to Peace: Writings on Peace and Justice* (2002), Henri Nouwen. Essays that represent Nouwen's spiritual beliefs and social concerns -- that intimacy with Christ requires active involvement with powerless people in the world.
- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (1982), Paulo Freire. A classic that is pertinent for education or development.
- *The Violence of Love* (1988), Oscar Romero. Excerpts from sermons of the assassinated bishop that call for social justice, nonviolence, and an end to poverty.
- *Spirituality of Liberation Theology* (1985), Jon Sobrino. A good introduction to liberation theology and spirituality.
- *Social Analysis: Linking Faith and Justice* (1983), Joe Holland and Peter Henriot. Gives insight on linking faith, culture, and justice. See a [helpful chart summary of their work](#).
- *Teachers as Cultural Workers: Letters to Those who Dare to Teach* (1998), Paolo Freire.
- *Half the Sky* (2009), Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Profiles women from developing countries to highlight ways discrimination against women hinders societal development. Video extras from the film [available here](#).
- *The Struggle is One: Voices and Visions of Liberation* (1994), Mev Puleo. Interviews and first-person narratives that capture the essence of the liberation theology movement.

- [EcoJesuit: Connecting Jesuits, People, and Ecology](#)

## Self-Awareness and Identities

- ***Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People (2013)* Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald.** The authors explore the hidden biases we all carry from a lifetime of exposure to cultural attitudes about age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexuality, disability status, and nationality. They question the extent to which our perceptions of social groups—without our awareness or conscious control—shape our preferences and judgments about people’s character, abilities, and potential.
- [“Models of Identity Development” by Jerome Rabow, Ph.D.](#)
- Two resources on the Power of Introverts -- A TED talk by Susan Cain: [ted.com/talks/susan\\_cain\\_the\\_power\\_of\\_introverts.html](http://ted.com/talks/susan_cain_the_power_of_introverts.html) and Cain’s manifesto: [thepowerofintroverts.com/sixteen-things-i-believe/](http://thepowerofintroverts.com/sixteen-things-i-believe/)
- Two TED talks from Brené Brown on vulnerability & shame – [ted.com/talks/brene\\_brown\\_on\\_vulnerability.html](http://ted.com/talks/brene_brown_on_vulnerability.html) [ted.com/talks/brene\\_brown\\_listening\\_to\\_shame.html](http://ted.com/talks/brene_brown_listening_to_shame.html) - She describes shame as an unspoken epidemic, the secret behind many forms of broken behavior and explores what can happen when people confront their shame head-on. Brown is also the author of *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* (2012).

## Crossing Cultures

- ***The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality of Leadership in a Multicultural Community (1993)*, Eric H. F. Law.** A Chinese-American author seeks to highlight why and how certain ethnic groups dominate multicultural situations, engaging both anthropology and theology to provide alternative paradigms.
- ***Cultural Intelligence: A Guide to Working with People from Other Cultures (2004)*, Brooks Peterson.** Offers exercises to help one understand their cultural style and increase their own cultural intelligence in cross-cultural environments.
- ***Code Switch*.** NPR series on race, culture and identity exploring the different cultural and linguistic spaces we inhabit and the tensions of how we navigate moving between them, focusing on dialogue that spans cultures: [npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/](http://npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/)
- ***“What Kind of Friendship is That?” The Search for Authenticity, Mutuality, and Social-Transformation in Cross-Racial Relationships (2007)*, Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD**
- ***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down (1997)*, Anne Fadiman.** Compelling story of the two cultures, an immigrant Hmong family and the U.S. medical community, struggling to negotiate differing conceptions of health and disease, to care for a chronically sick baby girl. On cultural brokering of and sensitivity (and lack thereof) to vast cultural gaps.

- *Orientalism* (1977), Edward Said.
- *International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (1997), Nancy Adler. On cultural differences in the workplace, stages of culture shock.
- *Culture Matters: The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook*, [peacecorps.gov/library/culture/](http://peacecorps.gov/library/culture/) - downloadable pdf designed for volunteers to use to support themselves in navigating cultural differences while in the field
- *Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Cultural Understanding*, [peacecorps.gov/library/culture/](http://peacecorps.gov/library/culture/)
- *Absolutely Intercultural* podcast series. [absolutely-intercultural.com](http://absolutely-intercultural.com) On intercultural aspects of human communication and starting intercultural dialogue. Based in Europe.
- *How to Work in Someone Else's Country* (2011), Ruth Stark. Offers practical, concrete guidance on preparing and working internationally (from an international development perspective)