

## Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our children from kindergarten to post-grad are back in school and diligently applying themselves to the work put before them with joyful abandon. (I also have some beach front property in Midland, TX if you're interested.)

We treasure the education of our children. It is said that about 95% of what we learn happens in the first 5 to 6 years of life. In those years we learn to walk, feed ourselves, manage intricate relationships, how to read and do math, pray, etc. What we learn after this, amounts to 5% of the quantity of our knowledge.

After our formal education many of us read less. We get busy with work, etc. It is difficult to sit down with a good book and ponder what the author intends. Many have not read any philosophy texts that cause one to be quiet and just think. There are demands of work and family pulls us away from what seems to be a luxury item. Thanks be to God that with modern technology there are several ways to help us find and enjoy stretching our brains.

I have found the St. Paul Center a wonderful treasure chest for matters of scripture <https://stpaulcenter.com/>. Their resources include books, Scripture video studies, Emmaus Academy courses, and much more. It is thoroughly Catholic and challenging for the intellect.

Another web site is Word On Fire <https://www.wordonfire.org/>. It has a wealth of resources from prayer, theological courses, book clubs, et al. Word on Fire harnesses *beauty*, *goodness*, and *truth* to draw people into or back to the Catholic faith. Several offerings will challenge the intellect but when done you will find it worth it. (The parish provides a subscription to all their materials free to you. Just join our Flock Notes and get connected.)

A third site is Catholic Education Research Center <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/>. Here you will find articles from a myriad of sources from journals, magazines, TV news, etc. When you search for a topic, you will be rewarded with many articles from various angles.

Thanks be to God that we have our Bible studies to help us to go deeper into the Scriptures. We also have book clubs who gather weekly to have a glass of wine as they reflect the week's chapter. Not a bad way to study.

And sometimes pick up a novel of weight such as, *The Count of Monte Christo* (Alexander Dumas), *Quo Vadis* (Henrik Sienkiewicz), *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Betty Smith), *A Tale of Two Cities* (Charles Dickens), *The Brothers Karamazov* (Fyodor Dostoyevsky) etc., etc., etc.

Growing up my mom read almost every day. She was a great fan of the Readers Condensed series — about once a month or so the book came, and 3 or 4 novels were condensed so one could easily get the gist of the books. I was not an avid until 8<sup>th</sup> grade when I read *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. It ignited my interest in books. What a gift that God gave the human race, the ability not only to speak, but to also write books so ages upon ages may read them again and again.

God is good. Have a great read.

pace – bene,

