

## Resources for the Life of Prayer

Compiled by Bishop Margaret G. Payne, October 2008  
Year 2: Called to Listen, Called to Live

### Weavings: A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life

Every single issue is a treasure, worth many re-readings. Here are several that are particularly appropriate to our emphasis in the synod. If you do not subscribe, ask a friend, or you can sometimes order back issues. ([www.weavings.org](http://www.weavings.org))

"A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life"	Sept/Oct 1986
"Teach Us to Pray"	March/April 1989
"Listening"	May/June 1994
"Availability"	Sept/Oct 1997
"Pray Always"	May/June 1998
"Prayer"	May/June 2002
"Practicing the Presence of God"	Jan/Feb 2003
"Fasting"	Sept/Oct 2004
"Pray for One Another"	July/August 2007

### Books

There are thousands of books on prayer and the life of the spirit, from early centuries to the present. Most of them are helpful at least and inspired at best. Commit to reading at least one this year as a companion for the journey. After a long time of thinking, here are five that have been influential in my own spiritual journey. They are in alphabetical order by author and I apologize for all the excellent ones I left out.

#### Meditating on the Word by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This book gives instructions for daily meditation and a section of sermons and meditations on the psalms. My copy includes a brief afterword by John Vannorsdall, a gift in itself from a gifted leader of our church and member of our roster for many years.

#### Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home by Richard J. Foster

Everything Foster writes is wonderful and full of wise insight into the Christian life. As a quotation from the cover notes about this book: "Richard Foster takes us into the huge forest of prayer and names every tree." Try other books by him as well.

#### Pray All Ways by Edward Hays

A delightful collection of prose and poetic passages that helps the reader understand prayer as an organic and natural way of life. As wise advice for our frenetic age, note especially the chapters entitled: "Hurry – A Hindrance to the Holy," "Play as Prayer" and "The Prayer of Napping." This is an older book, but timeless.

#### Pray without Ceasing: Revitalizing Pastoral Prayer by Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger

This book, written by a professor of pastoral care, brims with experience and perceptiveness, as well as deep passion for how the practices and disciplines of prayer can shape pastoral ministry and the community of faith. "If we believe that it is finally God who provides what is needed, then prayer is not optional," writes van Deusen Hunsinger.

#### The Other Side of Silence: A Guide to Christian Meditation by Morton T. Kelsey

This was a life-changing book for me, and it was a dependable guide as I navigated through a variety of advice about prayer and meditation. It introduced me to the mystery and great richness of silence. Not an easy read, but worth the effort.

#### Centering Prayer: Renewing an Ancient Christian Prayer Form by MB. Pennington

This is a classic, and now you can surely see my inclination toward meditative prayer. Pennington asks: Do you want to pray better? And then tells us how.