

Bishop Ortiz's Recommended Reading List

Fearless Dialogues

by Gregory C. Ellison II, Palmer Parker

Drawing on all the community's collective voices—from “doctors to drug dealers”—Fearless Dialogues is a groundbreaking program that seeks real solutions to problems of chronic unemployment, violence, and hopelessness. In cities around the United States and now the world, the program's founder, Gregory C. Ellison, and his team create conversations among community members who have never spoken to one another, the goal of which are real, implementable, and lasting changes to the life of the community.

Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood

by Patrick B. Reyes

Winner of the Hispanic Theological Initiative Book Prize.

Selected as the first book in the Children's Defense Fund's book club.

When the screams of innocents dying engulf you, how do you hear God's voice? Will God and God's people call you to life when your breath is being strangled out of you? **For people of color living each day surrounded by violence, for whom survival is not a given, vocational discernment is more than "finding your purpose" - it's a matter of life and death.** Patrick Reyes shares his story of how the community around him - his grandmother, robed clergy, educators, friends, and neighbors - saved him from gang life, abuse, and the economic and racial oppression that threatened to kill him before he ever reached adulthood. A story balancing the tension between pain and healing, *Nobody Cries When We Die* takes you to the places that make American society flinch, redefines what you are called to do with your life, and gives you strength to save lives and lead in your own community.

Listen to the Children: Conversations With Immigrant Families / Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones Con Familias Inmigrantes (Spanish and English Edition)

by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

Parents, pastors, educators, community leaders, and others are invited to eavesdrop on these fictionalized conversations between immigrant parents, their children, and their caregivers. This warm and practical resource offers unique insight into the emotions and perceptions of immigrant families. How do adults make the decision to emigrate from their homeland and why? How does the separation affect the children? What challenges does eventual reunification of the family bring? Explore these and other questions with pastor and educator Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, who is herself an immigrant and an advocate for undocumented residents. Bilingual: Spanish/English.

Out of the Depths: Women's Experience of Evil and Salvation

by Ivone Gebara

Whether understood as sin, as embracing all manner of suffering and injustice, or as the inexplicable human choice of evil over good, evil has historically been described and pondered chiefly through male categories understood as a universal viewpoint. Likewise salvation. Gebara here presents an alternative, feminist approach to evil and salvation. She allows women to voice their personal suffering from their own contexts, thereby manifesting their many differences. She then introduces a perspective on evil and salvation based in gender analysis to address specifically "the evil women do," the evil they suffer, and women's redemptive experiences of God and salvation.

[Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza](#)

by Gloria Anzaldúa, Norma Cantú

Rooted in Gloria Anzaldúa's experience as a Chicana, a lesbian, an activist, and a writer, the essays and poems in this volume profoundly challenged, and continue to challenge, how we think about identity. *Borderlands / La Frontera* remaps our understanding of what a "border" is, presenting it not as a simple divide between here and there, us and them, but as a psychic, social, and cultural terrain that we inhabit, and that inhabits all of us.

[The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#)

by James H. Cone

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk. Both the cross and the lynching tree represent the worst in human beings and at the same time a thirst for life that refuses to let the worst determine our final meaning. While the lynching tree symbolized white power and black death, the cross symbolizes divine power and black life God overcoming the power of sin and death. For African Americans, the image of Jesus, hung on a tree to die, powerfully grounded their faith that God was with them, even in the suffering of the lynching era.

[God of the Oppressed](#)

by James H. Cone

"My desire is that this book may help readers to know more fully the God of biblical revelation and, as a result, to proclaim God as the God of life." Who is God? Where is God? How are we to speak of God? Gutierrez looks at these classic questions through a review of the Bible, and his answers challenge all Christians to a deepening of faith.

[Bonhoeffer and King: Their Legacies and Import for Christian Social Thought](#)

by Willis Jenkins, Jennifer M. McBride

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King, Jr. - these giants of recent Christian social thought are here reassessed for a new context and a new generation. Both combined activism, ministry, and theology. Both took on public roles in opposition to prevailing powers of their time. Both professed a kind of Christian realism and ended as martyrs to their respective causes. Here many of the leaders in Christian social thought revisit the insights, causes, and strategies that Bonhoeffer and King employed for a new generation and its concerns: race, reconciliation, nonviolence, political violence, Christian theological identity, and ministry.

[Global Bible Commentary](#)

by Daniel Patte

The Global Bible Commentary invites its users to expand their horizon by reading the Bible with scholars from all over the world and from different religious persuasions. These scholars have approaches and concerns that often are poles apart. Yet they share two basic convictions: biblical interpretation always matters; and reading the Bible 'with others' is highly rewarding. Each of the short commentaries of the Global Bible Commentary is a readily accessible guide for reading a biblical book.

[The Peoples' Bible](#)

by Curtiss Paul DeYoung, Wilda C. Gafney (Hardcover)

The Peoples' Bible highlights the role of cultures in shaping the Bible and the way people read the Bible today. Relying on the best insights of historical-critical, liberationist, postmodern, and postcolonial interpretation...

[The Liberating Pulpit](#)

by Justo L. Gonzalez

Catherine and Justo Gonzalez provide a valuable resource for preaching and biblical interpretation. An account of liberation theology's impact on the task of preaching is offered by two historians of doctrine who are intimately aware of the need to be open to marginalized perspectives in the church. Early Christian preachers had much to say on issues such as the origins and proper use of wealth, the rights and duties of the poor and rich, and the nature of ownership.

[Jesus in the Hispanic Community: Images of Christ from Theology to Popular Religion](#)

by Harold J. Recinos, Hugo Magallanes

This first-of-its-kind collection reveals U.S. Latino/a theological scholarship as a vital terrain of study in the search for better understanding of the varieties of religious experience in the United States. While the insights of Latino/a theologians from Central and South America have gained attention among professional theologians, until now the role of U.S. Latino/a theology in the formation of North American theological identity has been largely unacknowledged.

[Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The Twenty-First Century Challenge to White America \(Facets\)](#)

by Joseph Barndt

More than 15 years have passed since Joe Barndt wrote his influential and widely acclaimed *Dismantling Racism* (1991, Augsburg Books). He has now written a replacement volume - powerful, personal, and practical - that reframes the whole issue for the new context of the twenty-first century. With great clarity Barndt traces the history of racism, especially in white America, revealing its various personal, institutional, and cultural forms. Without demonizing anyone or any race, he offers specific, positive ways in which people in all walks, including churches, can work to bring racism to an end.

[Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World](#)

by Rozella Haydée White, Nadia Bolz-Weber

In the words of Mother Teresa, "We have forgotten that we belong to each other." This lapse in memory has caused deep fractures and allowed fear, hatred, and division to infect our lives together. We've become disconnected from each other and from our very selves. In *Love Big*, leadership coach Rozella Haydée White introduces readers to the power of revolutionary relationships. Modeled after the image of God as a lover, these relationships can heal the brokenness of our lives by crossing over the dividing lines of race, gender, religion, orientation, ability, identity, and class to provide relief and inspiration.

[Jesus and the Disinherited](#)

by Howard Thurman

In this classic theological treatise, the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

[Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk Paperback – June 15, 2013](#)

by Delores S. Williams

This landmark work first published 20 years ago helped establish the field of African-American womanist theology. It is widely regarded as a classic text in the field. Drawing on the biblical figure of Hagar mother of Ishmael, cast into the desert by Abraham and Sarah, but protected by God Williams finds a prototype for the struggle of African-American women.