

Reading List for Companions of the Society of Saint Francis

■ Core Franciscan Texts

1. ***The Little Flowers of St. Francis*** – translated by Raphael Brown
A beloved collection of stories and legends about St. Francis and his early companions. Offers a vivid, often whimsical insight into the joyful and radical nature of Franciscan life.
 2. ***Francis and Clare: The Complete Works*** – translation and introduction by Regis J. Armstrong, OFM Cap.
Includes the writings of St. Francis and St. Clare, including the Rule, letters, prayers, and spiritual testimonies.
 3. ***The Life of St. Francis*** – by Thomas of Celano
The earliest biography of Francis, written by someone who knew him. A foundational source for understanding his life and spiritual impact.
-

■ Franciscan Spirituality and Practice

4. ***Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*** – by Ilia Delio, OSF
A short, powerful book exploring the mystical and courageous life of St. Clare, co-founder of the Franciscan movement.
5. ***Franciscan Prayer*** – by Ilia Delio, OSF
A deeper theological and spiritual reflection on the nature of prayer in the Franciscan tradition—incarnational, humble, and joyful.
6. ***The Way of St. Francis: The Challenge of Franciscan Spirituality for Everyone*** – by Murray Bodo, OFM
Accessible and inspiring, this book helps readers apply Franciscan

values to their everyday lives, emphasizing peace, humility, and simplicity.

7. ***Following Francis: The Franciscan Way for Everyone*** – by Susan Pitchford

Especially helpful for lay people and Companions. It offers real-world applications of Franciscan principles and explores how to live them out in modern life.

■ Rule of Life and Companion Discernment

8. ***Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-Ordered Way*** – by Stephen A. Macchia

A practical and spiritually grounded guide for creating a personal Rule of Life, suitable for Companions writing or revising their own.

9. ***Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*** – by Esther de Waal

Although Benedictine, this book offers rich insight into the spiritual practice of stability, balance, and intentional living—complementary to Franciscan values.

■ Justice, Creation, and Peace

10. ***Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*** – by Ilia Delio, Keith Warner, and Pamela Wood

Explores the deeply ecological nature of Franciscan spirituality, linking creation care with the Gospel.

11. ***Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*** – by Pope Francis

While not strictly Franciscan, this book reflects the heart of Franciscan action: solidarity with the poor, care for the Earth, and Gospel-rooted hope.

■ Prayer, Simplicity, and Reflection

12. ***Prayers from the Franciscan Heart*** – compiled by various Franciscans
A collection of prayers inspired by Franciscan themes, including peace, humility, and gratitude for creation.
13. ***The Soul's Slow Ripening*** – by Christine Valters Paintner
A gentle, contemplative guide to spiritual growth, with a Celtic-Franciscan resonance for those seeking depth and beauty in the ordinary.