



Meaningful Books for Your Summer Reading

In lieu of a summer series of “Meaningful Movies,” HSP recommends these four “Meaningful Books” for parishioners’ summer reading. There will be a Book Café in early September to discuss these books – one table for each. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

Here is the list of suggested “Meaningful Books” for your summer reading:

1. *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*, by Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman, published in 2009, available in paperback and Kindle editions.

For more than thirty years, humankind has known how to grow enough food to end chronic hunger worldwide. Yet in Africa, more than 9 million people every year die of hunger, malnutrition, and related diseases every year—most of them children. In this powerful investigative narrative, *Wall Street Journal* reporters Kilman & Thurow show exactly how, in the past few decades, Western policies conspired to keep Africa hungry and unable to feed itself. *Enough* is essential reading on a humanitarian issue of utmost urgency. What's hopeful is how the book shows us how famine is the result of bad policies, not just natural disaster or corrupt leaders—policies that can be changed. “Through vivid human stories, Thurow and Kilman show how the agricultural revolutions that transformed Asia and Latin America stopped short in Africa. And our sometimes well-intentioned strategies have alternated with ignorance and neglect to keep the world's poorest people hungry and unable to feed themselves.” (book jacket write-up)

2. *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America*, by Nancy Isenberg, published in 2017, available in paperback and Kindle editions.

In her groundbreaking bestselling history of the class system in

America, Nancy Isenberg upends history as we know it by taking on our comforting myths about equality and uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever-present, always embarrassing—if occasionally entertaining—poor white trash. Marginalized as a class, white trash have always been at or near the center of major political debates over the character of the American identity. We acknowledge racial injustice as an ugly stain on our nation’s history. With Isenberg’s landmark book, we will have to face the truth about the enduring, malevolent nature of class as well.

3. *Dark Money*, by Jane Mayer, published in 2016, available in paperback and Kindle editions.

Why is America living in an age of profound and widening economic inequality? Why have even modest attempts to address climate change been defeated again and again? Why do hedge-fund billionaires pay a far lower tax rate than middle-class workers? In a riveting and indelible feat of reporting, Jane Mayer illuminates the history of an elite cadre of plutocrats who have bankrolled a systematic plan to fundamentally alter the American political system. Mayer traces a byzantine trail of billions of dollars spent by the network, revealing a staggering conglomeration of think tanks, academic institutions, media groups, courthouses, and government allies that have fallen under their sphere of influence. *Dark Money* is an essential book for anyone who cares about the future of American democracy.

4. *Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*, by Eli Saslow, published in 2018, available in new and used hardcover and Kindle editions.

From a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter, the powerful story of how a prominent white supremacist changed his heart and mind. *Rising Out of Hatred* tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what this man’s story can tell us about America's increasingly divided nature. This is a book to help us understand the American moment and to help us better understand one another.

More complete descriptions of these books are available on the church website: www.holyspiritmissoula.org.