

Resources for Parents of Fallen-Away Catholics

In this packet, there are some resources that may prove helpful in welcoming your children back to the Catholic faith.



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Suggestions

- ❖ For books, try starting with *Always a Catholic: How to Keep Your Kids in the Faith for Life- and Bring Them Back If They Have Strayed* by Fr. Sebastian Walshe. It provides insight into the perspective of the Catholic child.

- ❖ Pray for the intercession of Saint Monica (prayer on the last page).

- ❖ Depending on the sentiments of your child, perhaps do not tell your children: “I am reading books to try to bring you back to Catholicism,” or show them this packet. This may put them on the defensive.

- ❖ Think of patients in hospital. If you were visiting a loved one in hospital, you would not overwhelm them with facts about treatment or give them lectures on what to do. Give them love and kindness and model the faith. Show them how Catholicism can bring them comfort and peace. They are already suffering. They do not need to be told about their suffering or asked if they are going to make it stop by returning to the Church. Everyone wants to be happy. Perhaps, show (do not tell) how Catholicism brings happiness and peace. Think of the saints who beamed with joy. They brought people to the faith by showing that joy in their lives.

Online Resources

1. ***Praying for Our Prodigals:** www.prayingforourprodigals.com
(Parent Perspective: May be particularly useful)
2. **CatholicAnswers:** www.catholic.com
3. **The Coming Home Network International:** chnetwork.org
4. **Catholics Come Home:** www.catholicscomehome.org

Books: You may find the books in bold particularly helpful.*

Catholics Coming Home: A Journey of Reconciliation: A Handbook for Churches Reaching Out to Inactive Catholics by Carrie Kemp (1980)

How Can You Still Be Catholic by Christopher Sparks (2017)

Navigating the Tiber: How to Help Your Friends and Family Journey Toward the Catholic Faith by Devin Rose (2016)

One Moment Can Change a Soul: Helping Catholics Come Home by Tom Peterson (2020)

***Return: How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church by Brandon Vogt (2015)**

Saint Monica and the Power of Persistent Prayer by Mike Aquilina and Mark W. Sullivan (2013)



***Search and Rescue: How to Bring Your Family and Friends Into—or Back into—the Catholic Church by Patrick Madrid (2001)**

The Saint Monica Club: How to Hope, Wait, and Pray for Your Fallen-Away Loved Ones by Maggie Green (2019)

***20 Top Reasons Why People Leave the Church (and How to Respond) by Brandon Vogt (2024)**

When a Loved One Leaves the Church by Lorene Hanley Duquin (2001)

Why I Choose The Catholic Faith: An Honest Journey for Believers, Skeptics, and Seekers of Truth by Fr. Daniel M. O'Rourke (2025)

Catholic Apologetics Books: Understanding the Intricacies and Questions

Introduction to Apologetics:

A Daily Defense: 365 Days (plus one) to Becoming a Better Apologist by Jimmy Akin (2016)

Answer Me This! by Patrick Madrid (2003)

Apologetics: A Philosophic Defense and Explanation of the Catholic Religion by Paul J. Glen (1980)

Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine by Michael Sheehan (1918)

An Essay in Aid of Grammar of Assent by John Henry Newman (1870)



Beginning Apologetics 4: How to Answer Atheists and New Agers by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2010)

Beginning Apologetics 2: How to Answer Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2014)

Beginning Apologetics 5: How to Answer Tough Moral Questions—Abortion, Contraception, Euthanasia, Test-Tube Babies, Cloning, & Sexual Ethics by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2008)

Beginning Apologetics 6: How to Explain and Defend Mary by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2012)

Beginning Apologetics 1: How to Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (1999)

Beginning Apologetics 3: How to Explain and Defend the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2014)

Beginning Apologetics 7: How to Read the Bible—A Catholic Introduction to Interpreting and Defending Sacred Scripture by Frank Chacon (2003)

Beginning Apologetics Super Set by Father Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2007)

Beginning Apologetics 8: The End Times – What Catholics Believe about the Second Coming, the Rapture, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, and Indulgences by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2005)

Beginning Apologetics 2.5: Yes! You Should Believe in the Trinity by Frank Chacon and Jim Burnham (2010)

Built for battle: A beginner's guide to understanding and defending your faith by Elvis Gutierrez (2018)



Catholic Answers to Common Objections (Tim Staples, 2009)

Catholic and Christian: An Explanation of Commonly Misunderstood Catholic Beliefs by Alan Schreck (2004)

Church Militant Field Manual: Special Forces Training for the Life in Christ by Fr. Richard M. Heilman (2012)

Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion by Rebecca McLaughlin (2019)

Defend the Faith by Robert M. Haddad (2022)

Defending Your Faith: How to Counter Standard Objections to Catholicism by Tim Staples (2010)

Defending Your Faith: Reliable Answers for a New Generation of Seekers and Skeptics by Dan Story (2019)

Discourses Addressed to Mixed Congregations by John Henry Newman (1984)

Envoy for Christ: 25 Years as a Catholic Apologist by Patrick Madrid (2012)

FAITH DEFENDER: The Decline & Fall of American Christianity by Micheal Wrenn (2021)

Fortes in Fide: Church Militant Prayer Book by Fr. Richard M. Heilman (2013)

Hard Sayings: A Catholic Approach to Answering Bible Difficulties by Trent Horn (2016)

How Old is Your Church: An Introductory Catholic Apologetic Guide by Kenneth Litchfield (2018)



How to Do Apologetics: Making the Case for Our Faith by Patrick Madrid (2016)

Let There Be No Divisions Among You: Why All Christians Should be Catholic by Rev. John MacLaughlin (2017)

Laying the Foundation: A Handbook of Catholic Apologetics and Fundamental Theology by Joseph Clifford Fenton (2016)

Manual for Lay Catholic Apologists: Why We Believe by Victor V.A. Feria (2025)

Memorize the Reasons!: Defending the Faith with the Catholic Art of Memory by Kevin Vost (2013)

My Catholic Faith by Louis LaRavoire Morrow (2024)

On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision by William Lane Craig (2010)

Outside the Catholic Church There Is Absolutely No Salvation by Peter Diamond

Principles of Catholic Theology, Book 2: On the Rational Credibility of Christianity by Thomas Joseph White (2024)

Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics by William Lane Craig (2008)

Reasons to Believe: How to Understand, Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith by Scott Hahn Ph.D (2007)

Screwtape Teaches the Faith: A Guide for Catechists by Marlon De La Torre (2011)

Sharing Your Catholic Story: Tools, Tips, and Testimonies by Nancy H. C. Ward (2019)



Steadfast Light: Defending Catholic Faith in a Modern World by Teresa Grace Ward (2025)

Strength and Alliance: Church Militant Field Journal by Fr. Richard M. Heilman (2013)

Tactics, 10th Anniversary Edition: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions by Gregory Koukl

The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism (Christian Essentials) by Ben Myers (2018)

The Comprehensive Guide to Apologetics by Joseph M. Holden (2022)

The Best of What We Believe... Why We Believe It: Volume Four by Joe Sixpack – The Every Catholic Guy (2020)

The Big Book of Catholic Answers- Volume 2: The Sign of Faith by Catholic Answers (2025)

The Essential Catholic Survival Guide: Answers to Tough Questions about the Faith by Catholic Answers Staff (2006)

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis (1942)

The Seven Deadly Sins of Apologetics: Avoiding Common Pitfalls When Explaining and Defending the Faith by Mark Brumley (2014)

To Whom Shall We Go?: The Biblical Case for the Catholic Church by Thomas J. Nash (2024)

Truth be Told: Basics in Catholic Apologetics by Mark Hart and Joe Cady (2012)



***What to Say and How to Say It: Discuss Your Catholic Faith with Clarity and Confidence* by Brandon Vogt (2020)**

***What to Say and How to Say It, Volume II: Discuss Your Catholic Faith with Clarity and Confidence* by Brandon Vogt (2021)**

***What to Say and How to Say It, Volume III: Discuss Your Catholic Faith with Clarity and Confidence* by Brandon Vogt (2022)**

Intermediate-Advanced Specifics: Defending Catholicism & The Church

A Biblical Defense of Catholicism by Dave Armstrong (2003)

A Catechism for Health Care: Insights from Catholic Teaching on Human Life, Medical Ethics, and Love of Neighbor by Stephen Napier and John M. Travaline (2024)

A Catholic Engagement with Latter-day Saints by Francis Beckwith and Richard Sherlock (2024)

A Catholic's Perspective on Creation and the Flood, with a Critical Analysis of So-Called Progressive Creationism by Thomas More (2024)

A Defense of Free Will against Luther: Assertionis Lutheranae Confutatio, Article 36 (Early Modern Catholic Sources) by St. John Fisher (2025)

A Season for Justice: Defending the Rights of the Christian Home, Church, and School by David A. French (2002)

Apologetics: A Philosophic Defense and Explanation of the Catholic Religion by Paul J. Glen (1980)

Apologetics Quotes: Words That Will Strengthen Your Faith & Equip You To Answer Critics of the Bible by Charlie H. Campbell (2017)

Apostolic Origins of Priestly Celibacy by Christian Cochini (1990)



And You Are Christ's: The Charism of Virginity and the Celibate Life by Thomas Dubay (1987)

Baptism of Desire and Christian Salvation by Anthony R. Lusvardi (2024)

Behold Your Mother: A Biblical and Historical Defense of the Marian Doctrines by Tim Staples (2017)

#BlessedMother: How to Follow, Share, and Defend Mary in the World of Social Media by Tighe (2020)

Blue Collar Apologetics: How to Explain and Defend Catholic Teaching Using Common Sense, Simple Logic, and the Bible by John Martignoni (2021)

Catholic Realism: A Framework for the Refutation of Atheism and the Evangelization of Atheists by Dr. Sebastian Mahfood and Dr. Ronda Chervin (2015)

College Apologetics: Proof of the Truth of the Catholic Faith by Anthony Alexander (1954)

Contemporary Bioethics: Catholic Wisdom for a Confused Culture by Marilyn E. Coors (2025)

Counterfeit Christs – Finding the Real Jesus Among the Imposters by Trent Horn (2019)

Cross-Examined: Catholic Responses to the World's Questions by Fr. Carter Griffin

Defend the Faith! by Robert M. Haddad (2022)

Defending Catholicism: A Concise Defense of Catholicism from the Bible against Classic Protestant Objections by James S. Anderson (2019)

Defending Marriage: Twelve Arguments for Sanity by Anthony Esolen (2014)

Devil's Advocate-Facing My Inner Anti-Catholic by Trent Horn (2022)

Fight Like a Catholic: Spiritual Warfare in the Catholic Tradition by Susan Brinkmann OCDS (2020)

Forty Reasons I Am a Catholic by Peter Kreeft (2018)



Handbook of Catholic Apologetics: Reasoned Answers to Questions of Faith by Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli S.J. (2009)

Hard Sayings- A Catholic Approach to Answering Bible Difficulties by Trent Horn (2016)

Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth by Alister McGrath (2010)

Homosexuality and the Catholic Church: Clear Answers to Difficult Questions by John F. Harvey (2007)

Hostile Witnesses: How the Historic Enemies of the Church Prove Christianity by Gary Michuta (2016)

Human Rights in a Divided World: Catholicism as a Living Tradition by David Hollenbach (2024)

“I Believe”: Exploring the Apostles’ Creed by Alister McGrath (1998)

In Defense of Purity: An Analysis of the Catholic Ideals of Purity and Virginity by Dietrich von Hildebrand (1927)

Inside Islam: A Guide for Catholics: 100 Questions and Answers by Daniel Ali and Robert Spencer (2003)

It Is Right and Just: Why the Future of Civilization Depends on True Religion by Scott Hahn and Brandon McGinley (2020)

Lectures on the Present Position of Catholics in England by John Henry Newman (2000)

Live Not by Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents by Rod Dreher (2020)

Mary: The Second Eve by John Henry Newman (1977)

Mass Misunderstandings: The Mixed Legacy of the Vatican II liturgical Reforms by Kenneth D. Whitehead

Meeting the Protestant Challenge: How to Answer 50 Biblical Objections to Catholic Beliefs by Karlo Broussard (2019)



Ministers of Christ: Recovering the Roles of Clergy and Laity in an Age of Confusion by Peter Kwasniewski (2021)

My Mind As A Catholic by John Henry Newman (2012)

On The Sacrament Of Confirmation: All Catholic Apologetics About Confirmation With Scripture References (Catholic Apologetics With Scripture References) by Anthony Okafor (2021)

One Man, One Woman: A Catholics Guide to Defending Marriage by Dale O’Leary (2007)

Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science by Stacy A. Trasancos (2016)

Persuasive Pro Life: How to Talk about Our Culture’s Toughest Issue by Trent Horn (2014)

Pope Fiction: Answers to 30 Myths & Misconceptions About the Papacy by Patrick Madrid (2016)

Pope Peter – Defending the Church’s Most Distinctive Doctrine in a Time of Crisis by Joe Heschmeyer (2020)

Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments Expanded & Updated by Randy Alcorn (2000)

Pro-Life 101: A Step-by-Step Guide to Making Your Case Persuasively by Scott Klusendorf (2002)

Raised on the Third Day: Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus by W. David Beck Michael R. Licona (2020)

Rebuilding Catholic Culture by Ryan N. S. Topping (2013)

Reclaiming Catholic Social Teaching by Anthony Esolen (2014)

Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church by Fr. Blake Britton (2021)

Speaking for the Unborn: 30-Second Pro-Life Rebuttals to Pro-Choice Arguments by Steven A. Christie (2022)



St. Thomas Aquinas Rescues Modern Psychology by Fr. Brian Thomas Becket Mullady O.P. (2022)

The Apostasy That Wasn't: The Extraordinary Story of the Unbreakable Early Church by Rod Bennett (2015)

The Biblical Basis for The Catholic Faith by John Salza (2005)

The Biblical Basis for the Eucharist by John Salza (2008)

The Biblical Basis for the Papacy by John Salza (2007)

The Biblical Basis for Purgatory by John Salza (2009)

The Case for Catholicism: Answers to Classic and Contemporary Protestant Objections by Trent Horn (2017)

The Case for Clerical Celibacy: Its Historical Development and Theological Foundations by Alfons Maria Stickler (1995)

The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture by Scott Klusendorf (2009)

The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus by Gary R. Habermas and Michael Licona (2004)

The Catholic Church has the Answer by Paul Whitcomb (1994)

The Catholic Controversy: St. Francis De Sales Defense of the Faith by St. Francis De Sales

The Catholic Priesthood and Women: A Guide to the Teaching of the Church by Sara Butler (2007)

The Catholic Priesthood: Biblical Foundations by Fr. Thomas J. Lane (2016)

The Catholic Verses: 95 Bible Passages That Confound Protestants by Dave Armstrong (2004)

The Great Facade: The Regime of Novelty in the Catholic Church from Vatican II to the Francis Revolution by Christopher A. Ferrara (2015)



The Great Tribulation: A Catholic Perspective: Chastisement, 3 Days Darkness, The Great Monarch, The Great Pope by Michael Freze (2016)

The Incorruptibles: A Study of the Incorruption of the Bodies of Various Catholic Saints and Beati by Joan Carroll Cruz (1997)

The Mystery of Predestination: According to Scripture, the Church and St. Thomas Aquinas by John Salza (2010)

The Mystical Rose: Thoughts on the Blessed Virgin from the Writings of John Henry Cardinal Newman by John Henry Newman (1996)

The Pope, the Council, and the Mass: Answers to Questions the Traditionalists Have Asked, Revised Edition by James Likoudis and Kenneth D. Whitehead (2006)

The Priest: Called, Consecrated, and Sent by Fr. Daniel J. Jones (2025)

The Rapture Trap: A Catholic Response to “End Times” Fever by Paul Thigpen (2001)

The Road from Hyperpapalism to Catholicism: Rethinking the Papacy in a Time of Ecclesial Disintegration: Volume 1 by Peter Kwasniewski (2022)

Upon this Rock: St. Peter and the Primacy of Rome in Scripture and the Early Church by Stephen K. Ray (1999)

Where is That in the Bible? by Patrick Madrid (2001)

What the Saints Never Said: Pious Misquotes And The Subtle Heresies They Teach You by Trent Horn (2018)

Why Be Catholic?: Ten Answers to a Very Important Question by Patrick Madrid (2014)

Why God Became Man by St. Anselm of Canterbury (2025)

Why I Am Catholic (and You Should Be Too) by Brandon Vogt (2019)

Why Is That in Tradition? by Patrick Madrid (2002)



Why We're Catholic: Our Reasons for Faith, Hope, and Love by Trent Horn (2017)

Patients in Hospital: An Analogy

(If the analogy is not helpful, please pay it no mind)

We are all patients in Christ's hospital. One can think of the fallen-away Catholics as being patients in the ICU. If you were visiting a loved one in the ICU, you would not:

1. Tell them how sad they make you.
2. Ask if they are going to decide to get better, so they do not have to suffer.
3. Bring them a list of all the reasons they should try a different type of treatment.
4. Give them lectures.
5. Tell them why their current course of action was wrong.
6. Tell them why their lifestyle landed them in hospital.
7. Tell them if they lived like you, they would not be in hospital.
8. Tell them God is sad for them | I know God wants you in the Church.

Why would you not do these things? Because you want to bring them comfort and peace. The items above may be true, however they are not necessarily helpful for the patient.

Your children most likely want comfort and peace; they just do not think that Catholicism can give it to them. Try to show them through *your* life that it can. Everyone wants to be happy. Try to show (do not tell) how Catholicism brings happiness and peace. Think of the saints who beamed with joy. They brought people to the faith by showing that joy in their lives.



The St. Monica Sodality Prayer for Fallen Away Catholics



In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritu Sancti.

Eternal and merciful Father, I give You thanks for the gift of Your Divine Son Who suffered, died and rose for all mankind. I thank You also for my Catholic Faith and ask Your help that I may grow in fidelity by prayer, by works of charity and penance, by reflection on Your Word, and by regular participation in the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist.

You gave Saint Monica a spirit of selfless love manifested in her constant prayer for the conversion of her son Augustine. Inspired by boundless confidence in Your power to move hearts, and by the success of her prayer. I ask the grace to imitate her constancy in my prayer for [name(s)] who no longer share(s) in the intimate life of Your Catholic family. Grant through my prayer and witness that (he/she/they) may be open to the promptings of Your Holy Spirit, and return to loving union with Your Church. Grant also that my prayer be ever hopeful and that I may never judge another, for You alone can read hearts. I ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritu Sancti.

Source: The Coming Home Network

