

Saint Teresa of Avila (1515 -1582 AD) Saint

XV. She was also declared a Doctor of the Church in **1970** by Pope Paul VI. "Within this majesty I

was given knowledge of a truth that is the fulfillment of all truths. I don't know how to explain this because I didn't see anything. I was told without seeing anyone, but I clearly understood that it was Truth telling me: 'This is no small thing I do for you, because it is one of the things for which you owe Me a great deal, for all the harm that comes to the world comes from its not knowing the truths of Scripture in clarity and truth; not one iota of Scripture will fall short.' "

[La Vida, ch. 40, #1.]

Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903 AD)

"The solicitude of the apostolic office naturally urges and even compels us...to desire that this grand source of Catholic revelation (the Bible) should be made safely and abundantly accessible to the flock of Jesus Christ"

"...For sacred Scripture is not like other books.

Dictated by the Holy Ghost, it contains things of the deepest importance, which in many instances are most difficult and obscure. To understand and explain such things there is always required the 'coming' of the same Holy Ghost; that is to say, His light and His grace" [Providentissimus Deus (Nov. 18, 1893)] Granted an indulgence to those who read the Bible for at least 25 minutes.

Pope St. Pius X (1903-1914 AD) "Nothing would please us more than to see our beloved children form the habit of reading the Gospels - not merely from time to time, but every day."

Pope Benedict XV (1914-1922 AD)

He repeated St. Jerome's statement: "Ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." He expressed his desire that, "... all the children of the Church, especially clerics, to reverence the Holy Scriptures, to read it piously and meditate on it constantly?" "He reminded them that, "... in

these pages is to be sought that food, by which the spiritual life is nourished unto perfection..."

Pope Pius XII 1943 AD

"Our predecessors, when the opportunity occurred, recommended the study or preaching or in fine the pious reading and meditation of the sacred Scriptures. ... This author of salvation, Christ, will men more fully know, more ardently love and more faithfully imitate in proportion as they are more assiduously urged to know and meditate the Sacred Letters, especially the New Testament ..."

[Divino Affiliante Spiritu]

He also granted indulgences (a blessing of God's grace) to those who read Scripture. (1 Cor. 4:1.)

Vatican II 1965 AD

"21. The Church has always venerated the Scriptures ..." [DEI VERBUM 1965 AD]

Pope John Paul I August 27, 1978

"... We wish to remind the entire Church that its first duty is that of evangelization. Our Predecessor, Paul VI, presented the directions for this in his memorable document:

animated by faith, nourished by the Word of God, and strengthened by the heavenly food of the Eucharist, one should study every way, seek every means "in season and out of season" (2 Tim 4:2), to spread the word, to proclaim the message, to announce that salvation which creates in the soul a restlessness to pursue truth and at the same time offers strength from above.

"If all the sons and daughters of the Church would know how to be tireless missionaries of the Gospel, a new flowering of holiness and renewal would spring up in this world that thirsts for love and for truth." [Urbi et Orbi]

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: ON READING THE BIBLE

