

For this assignment, you will write a book review on the outside reading book of your choice from the list provided in class. (*The booklist can also be found in the link below.*) Your book review must be at least eight (8) pages but should not exceed twelve (12) pages, not including the citation page or title page. The essay is to be completed using turban format. I am expecting this book review to be in the ballpark of around 900-1200 words. Be sure you provide evidence and cite your sources.

The book review should consist of the following:

- **A synopsis of the book.** What is being expressed about the person's spiritual quest and journey to Catholicism? What attracted this person to Catholicism? What brought him or her to a final decision? What were some of the major hurdles that needed to be overcome in order to become a Catholic? What was their experience after the conversion? How did they live out their faith? What significant contributions did they make to Catholic life and thought? IF YOU COPY THE SYNOPSIS FROM SOMETHING ON THE INTERNET OR AN ARTICLE, I WILL SURELY KNOW IT! DO NOT DO THIS. YOU WILL FAIL! I WANT **YOUR** SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK, NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S.
- **A critical applicative analysis.** For this part, you should look to find parallels and or contradictions in church doctrine to examine, explain, and reflect on those examples in an academic theological manner.
- **A more personal – though *informed* – reflection on the authors faith journey.** What is *your* take on the process this individual went through in their choice for Catholicism? How did their attraction to Catholicism and understanding of Catholicism measure up to what you have learned or know? What in this person's life did you most identify with? What did you find difficult to understand about this person? Faced with the same struggles that this person was faced with and the same choices, what would you have done and why?

I strongly encourage you to make notes as you read the book that you have chosen. Note especially the theological (*ideas about God, Jesus Christ, etc. and doctrinal issues*) and ecclesial (*ideas about the church*) movements within the author's experience.

You don't need to be a great theologian to write this paper; but *intellectual curiosity, openness, careful attention to important details*, as well as *a strong commitment to academic excellence* are the kinds of qualities that provide the necessary foundation to do well on this assignment. You are certainly invited – and required – to express your own opinion about the faith journey and approach to Catholicism that the individual you have chosen to explore expresses in his or her life. But it must be an *informed* opinion that demonstrates your understanding of Catholicism from the other readings or personal knowledge, accurate that is, of the church.