

Mary's Pence 2010 Reading List

These books suggested by Mary's Pence board and staff offer spiritual reflections, alternative views and visions of our world, insight into the lives of women and the poor, and some great stories. Enjoy!

Real Wealth of Nations, *Raine Eisler*

Our current economic system recognizes only a portion of the work of the world. It virtually ignores the very real work of caring for others and caring for the environment. Ms. Eisler lays out a compelling vision and practical steps to move toward a society based on a more humane and effective economic model.

Love Poems from God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West, *Daniel Ladinsky*

These beautiful voices bring us different views of the face of God and insightful reflections about love in and for the world. This book includes writings from Rumi, St. Francis of Assisi, Hafiz, Kabir, St. Teresa of Avila, Tukaram, St. Catherine of Siena, Mira, St. Thomas Aquinas, Rabia, Meister Eckhart, and St. John of the Cross. It is a great resource to be used over and over again.

Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble and Coming of Age in the Bronx, *Adrian Nicole LeBlanc*

Politicians rail about welfare queens, crack babies and deadbeat dads, but what do they know about the real struggle it takes to survive being poor? Journalist LeBlanc spent some 10 years researching and interviewing one extended family - mother Lourdes, daughter Jessica, daughter-in-law Coco and all their boyfriends, children and in-laws - from the Bronx to Troy, N.Y., in and out of public housing, emergency rooms, prisons and courtrooms. (Reed Business Information, Inc.) This is a great example of the systemic nature of poverty. And an engrossing story.

I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala, *Rigoberta Manchu*

This is the story of a people through the eyes and life stories of Rigoberta Manchu, an indigenous woman in Guatemala during the armed conflict of the 80s. It reflects the values of her people, their daily lives and struggles, the violence and injustice of the conflict, and the work of her people to claim justice. Rigoberta Manchu received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.

This Will be Remembered of Her: Stories of Women Reshaping the World, *Megan McKenna*

Ms. McKenna is a master story teller, weaving folk tales and scripture together to connect the stories of 40 real life women who changed their world. She highlights women of ancient times, women of history, and contemporary women; all are women who have worked as justice advocates, have fought against violence, or bridged the gap between peoples.

The Dance of the Dissident Daughter: A Woman's Journey from Christian Tradition to the Sacred Feminine, *Sue Monk Kidd*

Ms. Kidd recounts her own journey of anger, fear, and joy from her traditional Baptist upbringing to her new discovery of the power of nontraditional feminine religious experiences. Along her journey, Kidd encounters some of the most powerful feminist religious voices of her times, and records these voices as guideposts on her journey. A graceful account of awakening and transformation. (Library Journal)

Mountains Beyond Mountains, *Tracy Kidder*

Paul Farmer's experience in Haiti working to eradicate tuberculosis and HIV shows exactly how difficult it is to create change from the outside. His story demonstrates the importance of being in partnership and engaging with the people and the culture so change can happen.

The Book of Sins, *Angie O'Gorman*

This is a story about the future, when the church sells out to corporations (literally) and the poor are systematically kept in poverty to serve the purposes of the rich. It's the story a community of women as they wake up to the injustice around them and gain their voice. (Fiction)

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Poverty and injustice won't be eliminated unless women play a major role. Ms. WuDunn and Mr. Kristof make the case for providing women with resources and access to the system. Local women are the ones that can best make change in their communities.