

# WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE BOOK LIST

The core reading list of eight books is intended to help our members develop their understanding of the human person as they work to build a culture of life around the world. Each book was chosen for its relevance to the work of WYA and because it contributes in some way to a fuller understanding of the intrinsic dignity of the human person. We highly recommend reading these books as they will help you to better understand the ideas and language needed to build societies that affirm the dignity of each person.

## CORE READING LIST

The core reading list of 8 books is intended to help our members develop their understanding of the human person as they work to build a culture of life around the world. Each book was chosen for its relevance to the work of the World Youth Alliance and because it contributes in some way to a fuller understanding of the intrinsic dignity of the human person. We highly recommend reading these books as they will help you to better understand the ideas and language needed to build societies that affirm the dignity of each person. The books included are:

### **Man's Search for Meaning** Viktor Frankl

"Man's Search for Meaning" is an exploration of the nature of the human person by a man who had seen all external signs of human dignity stripped away by the cruel conditions of a Nazi concentration camp. Frankl observes the suffering of his fellow prisoners, and discovers important truths about the human person. Frankl describes the amazing resilience of the human person, and the ability for man to retain his dignity, even when he has lost all else. This book is an essential component in the training of every World Youth Alliance member. Frankl gives us a better understanding of our work promoting the dignity of the human person, and in the end, a better understanding of who we are.

### **A World Made New** Mary Ann Glendon

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the great documents of the 20th century, a document that should be read and understood by everyone. Unfortunately, over 50 years after its creation, it remains a document that is not widely known or appreciated by the general public. A World Made New tells the story of the creation of this document by the UN Human Rights Commission in the years immediately following World War II. Particular attention is given to the significant efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt as chair of the Human Rights Commission during the drafting of the Declaration. The book discusses the deliberations and struggles of the commission in creating a document deserving of being considered "universal."

### **Man and the State** Jacques Maritain

Jacques Maritain, philosopher and writer, is one of the preeminent scholars on modern ideas of the relation between the person and the state. This collection of essays examines the place and role of the state, the development of the idea of human rights, the limits of these rights, and the need for the recognition of what they truly represent. Maritain explores the function of the state as protector of rights, but not as the source of rights. Finally, Maritain explores the need for an international dialogue, and a meeting of states. What form should this international cooperation take? What institutions are necessary for it to run? Man and the State is one of the first explorations of the links in our modern concept of statehood, human rights, and the inalienable dignity of the person.



**Centesimus Annus**  
Pope John Paul II

Written for the hundredth anniversary of Rerum Novarum (Pope Leo XIII, 1 May 1891), *Centesimus Annus* is an encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II. Coming on the heels of the year 1989, and the fall of Communism in Europe, the pope analyses failed social philosophy and practice (Marxism, socialism, communism, materialism, etc.) through an examination of the human person. *Centesimus Annus* is a reflection on the kind of society that the human person requires.

**The Tipping Point**  
Malcolm Gladwell

The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate. Gladwell dissects what happens at each point of the curve and how it is possible to create the "tipping point." Suddenly, the development of communities of interest makes sense; for marketers this understanding will be critical. The author outlines some fundamental concepts to the Tipping Point- the fact that little changes cause big effects, and the fact that change happens not gradually but at one dramatic moment. "The world of the Tipping Point is a place where the unexpected becomes expected, where radical change is more than a possibility. It is, contrary to all our expectations, a certainty."

**Lost in the Cosmos**  
Walker Percy

Lost in the Cosmos takes readers on a long and humorous exploration of the human person by asking us to engage in a self-help questionnaire. World Youth Alliance members who attempt to answer Percy's questions will find themselves challenged to confront truths about the human person from the mysterious to the mundane.

**Brave New Family**  
G.K. Chesterton

G.K. Chesterton is one of the greatest defenders of the family, and especially of the modern family, which often feels alone in the midst of corporations and governmental regulations. He dares modern man to step outside the confines of the world, with its absolute laws, into the wider vista of the home, where man is free to make his own rules and explore the disquieting truths about himself which confront him there. Brave New Family, a collection of Chesterton's writings on "men and women, children, sex, divorce, marriage and the family," challenges the reader to reconsider their own perceptions of the home, family and themselves.

**Only the Lover Sings**  
Josef Pieper

Philosopher and writer Josef Pieper, in this series of short and thought-provoking essays, asks and answers questions about the human person. What is the difference between spare time and leisure? What does it mean to truly see or hear? To remember? Is there such a thing as an activity that is meaningful in itself?

Pieper warns his readers of the dangers of idolizing labor and productivity and therefore creating a totalitarian work state. He exhorts his readers to develop our "capacity to perceive the visible reality as it truly is." Only by truly seeing, Pieper tells us, can we gain a "deeper and more receptive vision, a more intense awareness, a sharper and more discerning understanding, a more patient openness for all things quiet and inconspicuous, an eye for things previously overlooked." According to Pieper, the fundamental nature of the human person demands this deeper vision. Without it, he is starved.



## RECENTLY RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The new recommendations focus on issues that WYA is actively working on in relation to Human Dignity. They cover subjects such as HIV/AIDS, Abortion, Contraception and Poverty.

**Fatal Misconception**

Matthew Connelly

In his work, "Broken Promises", author Edward Green proposes risk-elimination solutions for reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**The Invisible Cure:**

Helen Epstein

In her work, "The Invisible Cure", Helen Epstein proposes simple, effective strategies to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**The Bottom Billion:**

Paul Collier

In his work, "Bottom Billion", Paul Collier identifies four factors common to countries most severely experiencing a decline in per capita income.

**Broken Promises**

Edward C. Green

In his work, "Broken Promises", author Edward Green proposes risk-elimination solutions for reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Unnatural Selection**

Mara Hvestendahl

Unnatural Selection highlights the consequences faced by countries that have favored the birth of boys over girls by means of sex-selection abortion.

**White Man's Burden**

William Easterly

In his book The White Man's Burden, William Easterly asserts that "only the self-reliant efforts of poor people and poor societies themselves can end poverty, borrowing ideas and institutions from the West when it suits them to do so."



## WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

The World Youth Alliance offices organize book discussion groups where people come together and discuss the themes of the books and relate them to lessons on human dignity. WYA provides guide questions for the book discussion leader to help facilitate the discussion. The books are available for purchase on most popular bookstores or online at Amazon.com. Some copies are also available at the WYA Regional Offices.

If you would like to learn more about setting up a book discussion or to request copies of the discussion guides, please contact your regional office. WYA has offices at the following locations:

### **World Youth Alliance Headquarters**

228 East 71st Street  
New York, NY 10021 USA  
Phone: +12125850757  
Fax: +1 212 585 0785  
[wya@wya.net](mailto:wya@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance Latin America**

Insurgentes Sur. 950 1ro. piso,  
Colonia Del Valle  
México D.F.  
C.P. 03100  
Ph: +52 55 53 40 79 08  
[latinamerica@wya.net](mailto:latinamerica@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance Africa**

P.O. Box 24021, 00100  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel.: +254202508626  
[africa@wya.net](mailto:africa@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance North America**

228 East 71st Street  
New York, NY 10021  
USA  
Phone: +1 212 585 0757  
Fax: +1 212 585 0756  
[northamerica@wya.net](mailto:northamerica@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance Asia Pacific**

303 Xanland Place 323 Katipunan Avenue  
Loyola Heights Quezon City 1108  
Philippines  
T/F: +63 2 921 5162  
[asiapacific@wya.net](mailto:asiapacific@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance Middle East**

5th Floor, Massabki Serhal Bldg., Hamra  
Beirut, Lebanon  
T/F: +961 1 340772  
Mobile: +961 78 809745  
[middleeast@wya.net](mailto:middleeast@wya.net)

### **World Youth Alliance Europe**

Rue de la Loi 42, bte 7  
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium  
Phone: +32 2 732 7605  
[europe@wya.net](mailto:europe@wya.net)

