



## Reflections on the Book Club, February 2021

The Book Club is one of the longest-standing groups at St. Agnes! I recently spoke with Sr. Laetitia Bordes, the Book Club Coordinator, who shared that the Book Club is really about community.

*She said: "It's a gathering of folks from different backgrounds, cultures and philosophies who have in common the love of good stories and literature; who enjoy a hearty discussion while feasting on appetizing snacks, a glass of wine, or a cup of tea . . . [it is] a place where people share in laughter and discussion . . . where one's opinion is listened to and added to the "pot" of discoveries we make about authors and about each other . . . perhaps what I treasure most is the opportunity to learn about the personal history of members and how that influences their insights into the books we read.*

*We are sometimes asked, "Do you read any spiritual books in the Book Club?"*

*Why, yes, because every book is a spiritual book. Is it not in the lives of the characters and their times that we continue to discover God at work in creation, history, in each one's personal and communal journey? Literature can give new insights into theological and/or philosophical truths we have grappled with for a long time but never quite understood. I like to think of literature as the grappling with the "nitty-gritty" of theology.*

*Our Book Club community is for anyone who loves to read a wide variety of books and is looking for a venue for common sharing. Each of the members takes responsibility for the Book Club in some way. All of us bring suggestions as to the books we wish to read and members decide together on the book selections for the upcoming months. Everyone has something to contribute. Some bring snacks, or wine; some enjoy taking on the role of facilitator for one of the discussions; others help clean up and leave the Spiritual Life Center in order before we leave. We have one rule. If you wish to participate in the discussion, you must have read the book! If you decide to join our community, you will be welcome and if you wish to just drop in once in a while when the book we are discussing is of particular interest to you, by all means, come!"*

Special thanks to Laetitia for her thoughts and for building the rich community of the Book Club.