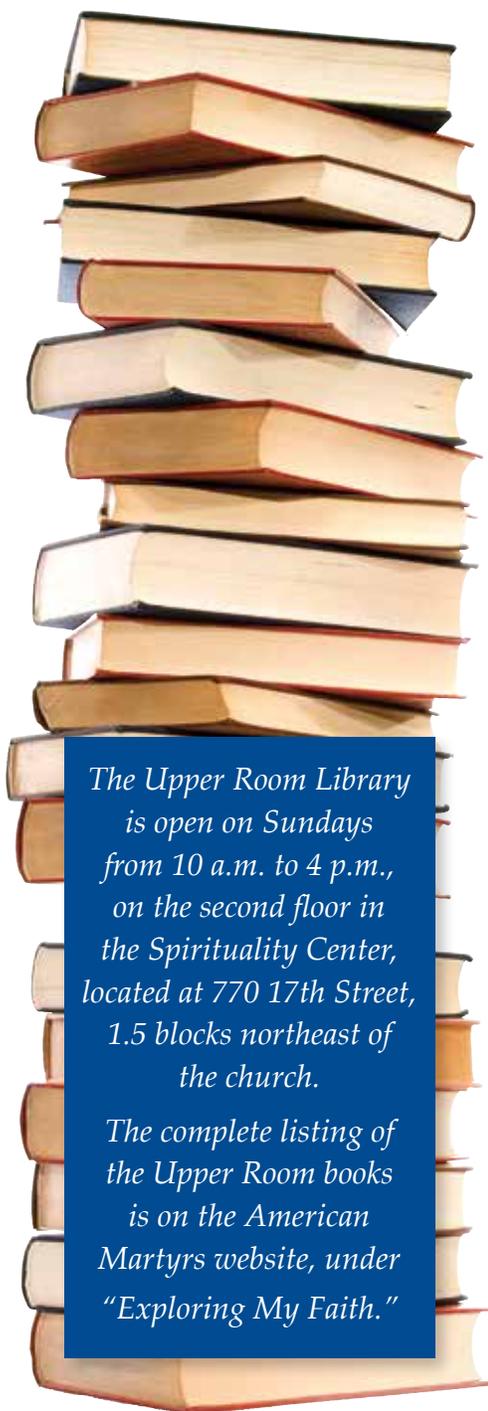
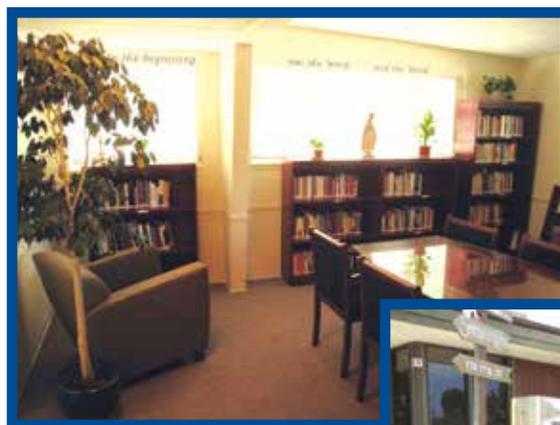


A Book for the Road AMERICAN MARTYRS' UPPER ROOM LIBRARY



The Upper Room Library is open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the second floor in the Spirituality Center, located at 770 17th Street, 1.5 blocks northeast of the church.

The complete listing of the Upper Room books is on the American Martyrs website, under "Exploring My Faith."



(left) Parishioners are invited to browse over 1,800 titles in the Upper Room Library.



(right) Msgr. John Barry blesses the Upper Room "book box" on the Feast of Pentecost, 2015.

The Catholic faith has been blessed with many great writers throughout its history. From great saints and current theologians, to everyday laypeople, we have been given a wealth of resources from those who have taken the time to share their journey of faith through the written word.

Here at American Martyrs, we hope to make some of these texts and other resources available to our parishioners, in order to help them in their own relationship with God and understanding of the faith. According to Millie Maloney, one of the volunteer librarians who helps coordinate the Upper Room Library, books are one of the best ways for

adults to take the next step in their spiritual journey.

"I think one of the things that is so special about [reading] is, it's personal," Millie says. "You can pick up a book at any time, you can read it, re-read it, analyze it, spend time with it. Like we spend time with the Lord in prayer, it is a form of prayer. It's a conversation between you and the author and the author's thoughts about God and their spiritual experience. It's a great tool."

Spearheaded by Anna Jung almost five years ago, the purpose of the Upper Room Library was to create a way for parishioners to access and utilize the vast amount of resources that the parish had accumulated.

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UPPER ROOM LIBRARY

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If you are interested in learning more about the library, have Catholic books you would like to donate, or would like to volunteer, please contact Anna Jung at 310-374-0863 or Millie Maloney at 310-938-3125.



(above) A small but dedicated group of volunteer librarians work to keep the Upper Room Library open and available.



(right) The Upper Room Library sponsors a book table outside of Mass on several Sundays each month.

“The library was born from the recognized need to collect and house resources – books, CDs, DVDs – used in a variety of parish ministries,” Anna says. “The purpose was to make the resources available to the larger American Martyrs parish community.”

Each Sunday, the Upper Room Library is open for anyone who would like to visit and find material to help deepen his or her faith. From books on prayer, to lives of the saints, to Bible studies, and various other spiritual materials, the collection of over 1,800 titles is bound to have something for everyone.

“We wish to continue serving our parish family by making spiritual

resources available for their personal use,” Anna says.

Several Sundays a month, the Upper Room Library also sponsors a book table outside of Mass. Parishioners are invited to browse the selections of books available and borrow them on the spot. Another extension of the library is a “book box,” located in the parish parking lot with the motto “Take – Read – Return.”

“Our journey needs to be supported,” Millie says. “It needs to be supported by the community that we’re worshiping with, and this is an opportunity to help support people on their faith journey. You know, you think you know it all about Catholicism

because you studied the *Catechism*, you learned all the prayers, you go to Mass on Sunday, but we have such a wonderfully rich faith.

“There’s space to sit down and spend time with the books and decide what you want to take – it’s there for the taking!” she continues. “We get so caught up in the world and life that we miss the richness of our faith if we don’t spend some time with it. Seeing it through other people’s eyes is one way to do that.”

Our American Martyrs community extends gratitude to Anna Jung, Millie Maloney, Alvin Fletcher, Helen Bell, Angie Freeman, Joyce Payne and Chris Troxel, the dedicated volunteers who staff the library!