

# BOOK CLUB MINISTRY

By, Joanne R. Alloway

In 2006, a small group at Holy Family launched this insightful and always interesting ministry. They saw it as a way to bring parishioners together who not only love to read, but who also wanted to learn more about different aspect of our faith. I doubt the group realized then what a lovely social time would evolve as well. After all these years, our group has grown and is still having fun! I have been a member since the inception of this ministry.

In general, this is how the Book Club works. We meet on the second Monday of each month – from September to June – from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in the church library, across from Unity Hall. During the summer we meet at a member's home to select the books we will read for the coming year. Members take turns moderating the meetings, especially if they recommended the book. Softcover books are usually ordered in bulk, and can be purchased at the meetings.

The meetings are all casual and questions are prepared by the moderator; but not strictly adhered to, as we enjoy lively discussion and everyone's opinion counts! There's always some light refreshments and beverages, which further increases interaction between members – old and new.

The books we've been reading cover diverse topics and genres. Each year we read a variety of biographies, memoirs, nonfiction, spiritual how-to books, novels and historical books. Examples of the subjects of these books include: Popes Benedict and Francis' writings, biographies of Saints Francis, Rita and Joseph, a true story of an atheist turned Catholic, an interpretation of Mark's gospel on Jesus' anger, EWTN Founder, Mother Angelica, stories about historical figures and their prayer lives, heroic military chaplains who sacrificed everything and much more. As a point of interest, our membership has a 40/60 ratio of men to women and we have three married couples; this makes for dynamic dialogue!

Even if you're not a bookworm, let the Holy Spirit be your guide and venture out to join us. You can learn a lot from discussing a good book with friendly, open-minded people! I certainly have!