



# READS

## ***A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE READING PUBLIC***

In September 2008, the Catholic Library Association will launch CLA Reads, a service to the Catholic and wider communities to present pertinent background materials and guides to planning or directing book discussion groups for churches, schools, organizations, or friends!

On our website – [www.cathla.org](http://www.cathla.org) - we will provide materials to assist you in beginning and conducting an effective discussion program. Included in the material would be an introductory letter, brief biographical sketch of the author, synopsis of the book, an indication of the appropriate reading level - highlighting benefits and problems in the text, discussion questions, related activities such as films or music, and an evaluation sheet to be returned to CLA. We will ask that groups who participate register with us and return an evaluation form to help strengthen the program and make the guides more valuable.

In order to do this WE NEED YOUR HELP! Consider participating by creating guides or publicizing this new endeavor. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF CLA to be a part of CLA Reads. Jack Edson, a CLA Executive Board member and a public librarian from Buffalo, NY, chairs the program along with Malachy McCarthy, archivist at Chicago's Claretian Missionaries and Ann-Maria Contarino, a professor of English at Saint Anselm College in NH. In the March 2008 issue of *Catholic Library World*, Ann-Maria Contarino's article "People of the Book" provides a model for our program. So read it – and take a chance - contact us!

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Thanks and we look forward to hearing from YOU!