

Reading with the Spirit: A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith by Timothy Egan

Saturday, February 29 at 10:00 am in the Bloom Room

Moved by his mother's death and his Irish Catholic family's complicated history with the church, Timothy Egan decided to follow in the footsteps of centuries of seekers to force a reckoning with his own beliefs. He embarked on a thousand-mile pilgrimage through the theological cradle of Christianity, exploring one of the biggest stories of our time: the collapse of religion in the world that it created. Egan sets out along the Via Francigena — once the major medieval trail leading the devout to Rome — and makes his way overland via the alpine peaks and small mountain towns of France, Switzerland and Italy. The goal: walking to St. Peter's Square, in hopes of meeting the galvanizing pope who is struggling to hold together the church through the worst crisis in half a millennium. On his way, Egan is accompanied by a quirky cast of fellow pilgrims and by some of the towering figures of the faith--Joan of Arc, Henry VIII, Martin Luther. **One of Oprah's must-read books of 2019.** "What a wondrous work! This beautifully written and totally clear-eyed account of his pilgrimage will have you wondering whether we should all embark on such a journey, either of the body, the soul or, as in Egan's case, both." —Cokie Roberts

This book group meets one Saturday each month and focuses on reading designed to stretch our spiritual and theological muscles. Bring your coffee. No need to register. All are welcome!

*Facilitated by **Catherine Penn Williams**.*