Material on Vocation

Threads from our Tapestry: Benedictine Women in Central MN by Sr. Imogene Blatz & Sr. Alard Zimmer
Authors share historical, biographical, and human-interest material about the Sisters of St. Benedict. Sometimes dramatic or humorous, the stories bring out the color of sisterhood in contrast to their black-and-white image. (Foundational Level)

Christian Egypt: Coptic Art & Monuments Through Two Millennia by Massimo Capuari
Gain a greater appreciation of the richness of the Coptic civilization by traveling through ancient and medieval Coptic sites throughout Egypt, including the ruined monasteries of St. Jeremiah and St. Apollo. (Foundational Level)

Silence, Solitude, Simplicity by Sister Jeremy Hall, OSB
The monastic way is not forsaking the world, but for the sake of the world. Her book is the fruit of decades of practice, and the spiritual journey she recounts is nobody’s but hers. (Intermediate Level)

Follow Me: A History of Christian Intentionality by Ivan J Kauffman
This probing work tells the story of these communities, both monastic and lay. It is a story that is both inspiring and instructive. Above all it is a story that opens the way for greater understanding between two groups of Christians, Protestant Evangelicals and Catholic Monastics. (In-depth Level)

Saints and Scholars by David Knowles
This collection transports us into the monastic age-the thousand years between 6th and 16th centuries, when the monasteries were the treasure-houses of Europe’s social, cultural, and religious heritage. The men portrayed represent their own historical setting, strengths, and weakness of mankind. (In-depth Level)

Don’t Trust the Abbot: Musings from the Monastery by Abbot Jerome Kodell
One would expect an abbot to have words of wisdom for monks living in a monastery. But could his musings be relevant for those living in a complicated and often harried world? Yes. Readers will think in new ways about prayer, the Christian life, faith, and trust. (Foundational Level)

The Historical Atlas of Eastern and Western Christian Monasticism by Juan Maria Laboa
Both African and Middle Eastern, Christian monasticism travels along two parallel streams, which historians have examined the history of Christianity. (Intermediate Level)

One Rule, Many Men: The Monks of Saint Martin’s Abbey edited by Stacey Larson & Katie Hawkins
A group of students in a writing class at St. Martin’s University took on the mission to interview and write essays about the Benedictine monks who live at the St. Martin’s Abbey. The essay collection recounts monks’ stories about families, friends, and life events, stories that are defining moments in their lives. (Foundational Level)
Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation by Parker J. Palmer
Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives. (Foundational Level)

Sing a New Song: The Christian Vocation by Timothy Radcliffe
Timothy Radcliffe, was Master of the Dominican Order for ten years. “We struggle with much the same challenges as anyone else: trying to cope with our sexuality, dealing with money, saying our prayers, and building community.” (Intermediate Level)

Liberal Learning as a Quest for Purpose by William Sullivan
Introduces the Program on the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV), a model that attempts to understand contemporary problems facing undergraduate education. (In-depth Level)

Forever Your Sister: Reflections on Leaving Convent Life by Wedl & Nalevanko
Following Vatican II, convents all over suffered loss in their sisterhood. In 1993, St. Benedict’s Monastery invited former sisters to visit. Out of this came these 22 stories. (Foundational Level)