

Forgotten Gems: Readings in Neglected Works in the Western Literary Tradition

– Dr. Esolen

In this course, we will be reading fictional works that center on the Christian life in modern times, or on figures alive or imagined to be alive at the time of Christ. Most of these works have been somewhat neglected or even dismissed, because they do not fit in with current political aims, but they are all great (one of them, *The Betrothed*, can make a good case for being the greatest novel ever written). Several of the 20th century authors (Mauriac, Lagerkvist, Sienkiewicz, Boell) are Nobel laureates, from the time when the Nobel electors did not disdain religion in general and Christianity in particular.

Reading list (* marks novels to be read during the Fall term):

- *Riccardo Bacchelli, *The Gaze of Jesus*
- *Henryk Sienkiewicz, *Quo Vadis?*
- *Par Lagerkvist, *Barabbas*
- *Robert Browning, "Cleon," "An Epistle of Kharshish"
- *Robert Hugh Benson, *Come Rack, Come Rope*
- Alessandro Manzoni, *The Betrothed*
- Francois Mauriac, *The Woman of the Pharisees*
- Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*
- Heinrich Boell, *And Never Said a Word*