
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR LOYOLA PRESS

What kinds of books and services does Loyola Press offer?

We publish religion books for the general trade. Our books help readers live and pray as Catholic Christians. We especially focus on three areas: we provide high quality materials for people making life decisions informed by their faith; for people yearning to experience God more closely in their lives; and for people who aim to pass on their Catholic faith and its traditions to the next generation of believers. We seek to provide these books and services in relevant, innovative, and dynamic ways.

What kinds of authors write for Loyola Press?

We publish about twenty to thirty new books a year, so we are highly selective. We are looking for marketing-minded authors, who can write simply and clearly—and with style. We value fresh and inspiring new voices and experts with visibility looking for superb editorial and marketing collaboration.

What types of manuscripts are of interest to you?

Here are the specific categories we're looking for:

- *Catholic spirituality*: books that integrate spiritual wisdom with everyday life. Books that help people to experience God in their lives more directly. We have a particular interest in Ignatian spirituality and the process of discernment and making life decisions.
- Catholic tradition: books that explore the time-honored traditions of the church and show what significance they have to our lives today and how we can pass these traditions on to a new generation of believers.

What are some of the most recent titles published by Loyola Press?

Loyola books you may have seen recently include:

Inner Compass by Margaret Silf
The Gift of Peace by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin
Heroic Leadership by Chris Lowney
Spirituality at Work by Gregory F. A. Pierce
My Monastery is a Minivan by Denise Roy
Lessons for Living by John Paul II

In the Arms of Angels by Joan Wester Anderson
The Catholic Passion by David Scott
My Life with the Saints by James Martin, SJ
In This House of Brede by Rumer Godden
Mr. Blue by Myles Connolly
Do Black Patent Shoes Really Reflect Up? by John Powers
The Devil's Advocate by Morris West
The Edge of Sadness by Edwin O'Connor

What types of books do not interest Loyola Press?

We are no longer acquiring new children's or young adult books. We do not publish academic monographs, dissertations, collections of essays, symposium papers, poetry, drama, music, or manuscripts with no practical spiritual applications. Also, please avoid sending us argumentative, ideologically driven books.

How do I interest Loyola Press in my manuscript?

You can grab our attention by supplying clear, compelling answers to these editorial questions:

- What is my book about?
- Why am I the right person to write this book?
- Why is now the best time to publish this book?
- Who is the self-selecting, core book-buying audience for my book?
- What will make this audience go out and buy my book once they hear about it?

When can I expect a reply from Loyola Press?

It takes approximately three months for us to respond due to the heavy volume of submissions.

Will Loyola Press return my materials?

Yes, if you include a stamped, self-addressed mailer. Loyola Press receives thousands of unsolicited manuscripts a year and can not assume responsibility for returning materials that do not include return postage. Also, please do not send us originals of manuscripts, disks, photographs, illustrations, or anything else. We simply cannot accept responsibility for irreplaceable materials. *Remember to always save a copy of your work!*

What is your main reason for rejecting a manuscript?

In most cases, we turn down manuscripts because they are editorially unsuitable for our list. Loyola Press serves its mission, its authors, and most importantly its customers by concentrating on those books that we know we can publish successfully. These are books in the categories described elsewhere in these guidelines. We turn down many proposals not because they are unsound or unpublishable but because we're simply not the best publisher for them.

Where can I reach you?

Please do not phone. Please e-mail a query letter before sending unsolicited materials.

Address:

Loyola Press
Attn: Joseph Durepos
Acquisitions Director
3441 North Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60657
Fax: 773-281-0152
E-mail: durepos@loyolapress.com

What should my book proposal include?

A book proposal should include the following:

Title Page: A cover sheet including your book title, your name, and your address.

Overview: 3–5 pages of dramatically and powerfully stated summations that define your work and what distinguishes it from any other book on the market. This should include the central thesis and anticipated editorial questions.

Approach/Specification: Describe word length, number of chapters, types of illustrations, and any unique organizational schemes or formats.

Market Analysis: Describe the target market for the book, and any facts, statistics, trends, or analyses that should persuasively convince us that this is a “can’t miss” book. Remember, acquisitions are increasingly determined by the marketing and sales departments of publishing houses.

Promotion/Publicity: Promotion is what we pay for; publicity is what you pay for. How will you publicize your book? Give us realistic suggestions based on your experience and skills. Can you speak to groups? Do you write for a newspaper or magazine? Are you in radio or television? How will you let people know about your book and send them into the bookstores to buy it?

Competition: List five books that will compete with your book. Describe them briefly to show that you are familiar with these titles. This section shows how market savvy you are and is critical in conveying your awareness of the publishing realities necessary to be successful.

About the Author: Give a strong description of yourself, and list your other publications and relevant expertise in the publishing field. Journalistic style is best for this description. A formal vita can be included. This section is ultimately a showcase of your talent, career, and history—it is a statement that says why you are the perfect person to write the book that you are proposing. Include a professionally taken photograph of yourself if you have one.

Table of Contents Page: List the titles of chapters included in the book with a brief explanation of the content if necessary.

Sample Chapter: Include one sample chapter from your book that sells us on your proposal—be sure to include anything provocative and compelling that will appear in your book.

(Please do not bind or staple your proposal.)

Thank you for your interest in Loyola Press.