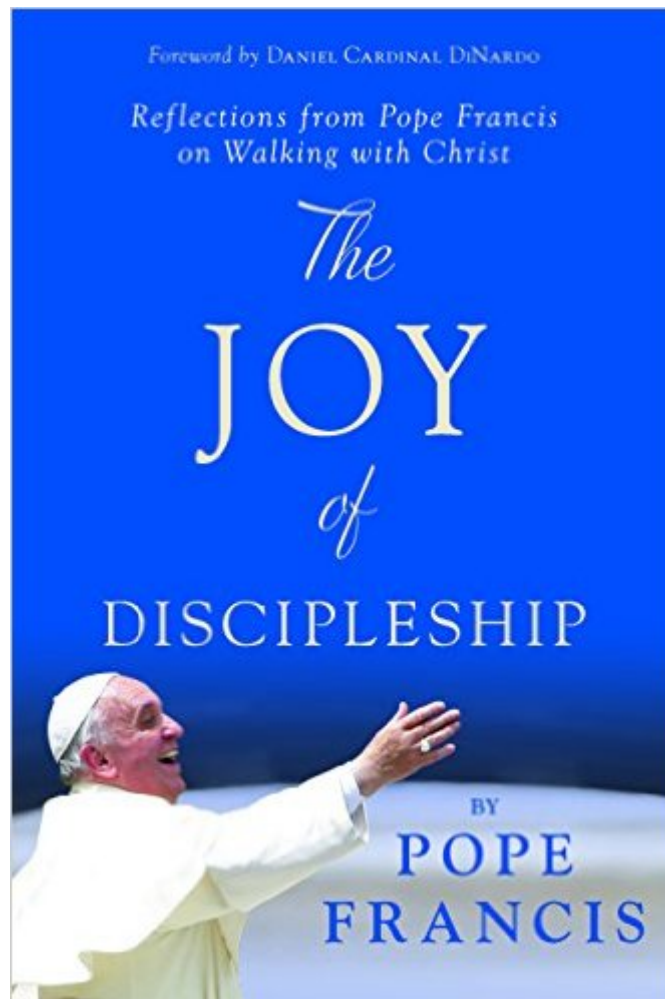


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The Joy Of Discipleship: Reflections From Pope Francis On Walking With Christ



Synopsis

“Dear friends, be glad! Do not be afraid of being joyful!” Pope Francis, from *The Joy of Discipleship*

Near the end of Luke’s Gospel, two disciples slowly make their way home from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. At the outset, they are deeply saddened by Jesus’ tragic death. By that evening, however, they have made a 180-degree turn: from dejected disciples to followers filled with joy—a joy they simply must share with others as fast as they can. What accounts for this change? They have encountered the risen Christ! In *The Joy of Discipleship*, Pope Francis reminds us that joy should be one of the defining characteristics of any person who has truly encountered Jesus. This skillfully curated collection of homilies, speeches, and other documents from Pope Francis, compiled and edited by James P. Campbell, offers a fresh perspective on why Christian disciples should be so joyful in the first place and how that joy might manifest itself in our individual daily lives. Covering a broad range of themes—Christ’s Resurrection, mercy, wealth and poverty, the Christian family, and more—*The Joy of Discipleship* moves us to meditate on Christ and then inspires us to move out from our own four walls, jubilantly proclaiming God’s transforming love in word and deed. For anyone who wants what Pope Francis has—an active, abiding, authentic love for Jesus Christ, for the Church, and for the people of this world—*The Joy of Discipleship* will point the way. This volume gives us a portrait of the Pope and what amazing joy fills his life, his mind, his teaching . . . his discipleship! From the foreword by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

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Customer Reviews

"The Joy of Discipleship" by Pope Francis is a refreshing and inspiring work by the pontiff beckoning the reader into living his or her faith, with the promise that Joy will be a part of this. This book is, for lack of a better word, pasted together from a series of sermons given by his Holiness. The reading of it is extremely accessible and one that can be read more than once so that the theme is inwardly digested. The basic premise is perhaps that we should do unto others, that which has been done unto us. The author reminds us that through Jesus' sacrifice our sins are forgiven and mercy has been shown upon us, so that we now need to reflect the same to others. This is to be accomplished by as individuals and by members of the one body known as God's church. Never afraid to jump across denomination lines Pope Francis reminds the reader that even in Islam the attributes given to the Creator include "merciful and kind" and we can and should reflect that ourselves. He reminds us that though it is easy to be loving and kind to those who offer the same to us, these very gifts are to be shared Christ-like - to those who do not offer the same. Thus, the name he gives those who are willing to take this risk - "Courageous Christians." Taking the Courageous Christian path is a serious one that, if risked by the faithful, leads to joy (hence the title of the book)! The author goes on to dissect the theme a bit more with references from St. Paul and always looking to Jesus as our model, especially when courage is needed. Of course, Jesus is encountered regularly by biblical reading, worship, in the Eucharist and by the service of the Holy Spirit.

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