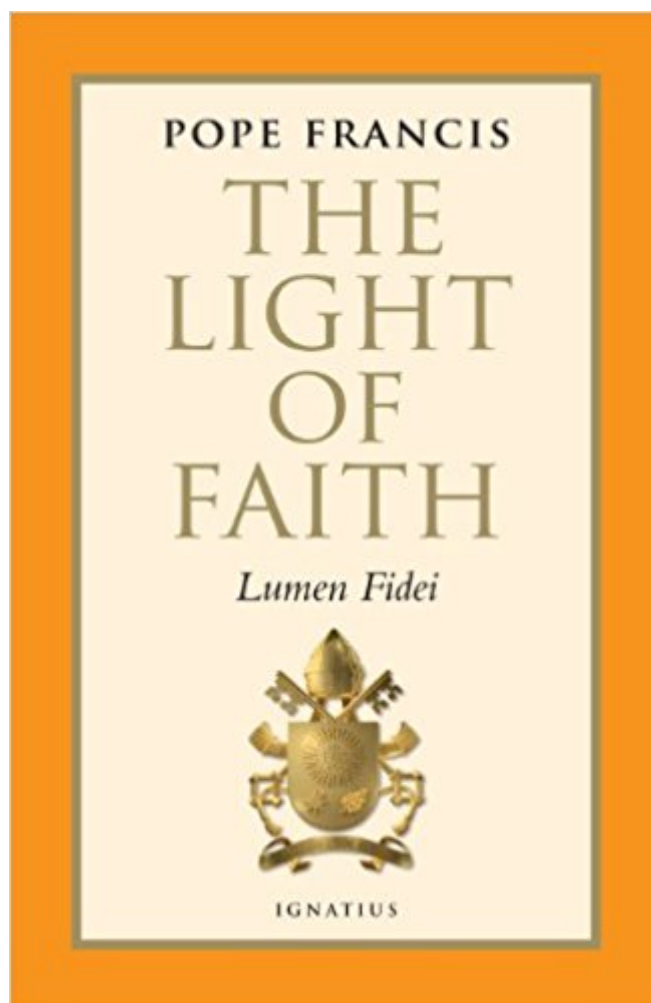


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The Light Of Faith: Lumen Fidei (Libreria Editrice Vaticana)



Synopsis

Faith is the source of light, of guidance for the Christian life. "We walk by faith, not by sight", wrote St Paul. In his first encyclical Pope Francis reflects on the meaning of faith, the beginning of God's gracious salvation. Faith is the means by which man encounters the living God through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Francis draws on key themes of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, who wrote encyclicals on charity and hope. He intended to complete the set with a reflection on faith, which would also have underscored the Year of Faith that he launched. Benedict's history-making retirement meant he was unable to finish his encyclical. Francis took up the task, adding his own insights, themes, and emphases to the work begun by Benedict XVI. According to Pope Francis, *Light of Faith* is a "four hand document". Pope Benedict, Francis notes, "handed it to me, it is a strong document. He did the great amount of work". Thus, although officially *Light of Faith* (*Lumen Fidei*) is an encyclical of Pope Francis and reflects his teaching ministry, it also reflects the work of Pope Emeritus Benedict. This is not only Francis' first encyclical; it is also the first encyclical to have been openly written by two successors of St. Peter. "There is an urgent need, then, to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence. A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives." -- Pope Francis

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Customer Reviews

Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio), is the first Latin American to be elected to the chair of Peter. A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was ordained as a priest in 1969. He served as head of the Society of Jesus in Argentina from 1973 to 1979. In 1998 he became the archbishop of Buenos Aires, and in 2001 a cardinal. Following the resignation of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, February 28, 2013, the conclave elected Bergoglio, who chose the papal name Francis in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. He is the first pope to be a Jesuit and to come from the Americas.

Yes, and I recommend Lumen Fidei even to those doubters, not yet confirmed in Faith, as a guide and mentor. Pope Francis writes this for all Christians, not just one specific Christian demonination, as well as for non-Christians still finding their way through the discovery process. Even doubters will find true fruit in the document if they let it speak to them right where they now are. Yes, this book has a great spiritual value; it's ageless and priceless, as is the gift of Faith towards which it points. Faith produces action, and studying those actions as Francis does reveals the divine nature of Faith and how it is freely gifted to all who seek it. Jay Porcaro, Milford, OH

really helped in understanding our faith and good reference for teaching

This is a short but illuminating encyclical from both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. The topic is Faith and all that it encompasses. As stated in the dialogue between faith and reason; "Each of us comes to the light because of love, and each of us is called to love in order to remain in the light." Pope Francis equates faith as a journey that illumines all our relationships. This light will not scatter all darkness but will guide our steps and suffice for the journey. This is an inspirational and thought provoking read for your faith journey.

This is an excellent book on the nature of faith - any kind of faith. I buy multiple copies of it at a time and I give it out to people who are non religious as well as devout Catholics. The genius of this book is that it manages to capture the essence of faith in anything - secular or religious - in a way that is at once contemporary and timeless. For those of us that struggle with faith or belief in anything, it feels like a manual to discovery.

The transition from Benedict XVI to Pope Francis is seamless in this wonderful encyclical. It points out the importance of faith in lighting our lives and directing us to the true path to happiness.

Loved being able to get this on my kindle and take it wherever I want to. Its always good to have the words of our Holy Father. This isn't too long and of course doesn't cover everything in the Catholic faith but definitely something every Catholic should read.

I always struggle with very deep philosophical works so it was difficult for me to really understand everything. I had to re-read quite a bit. With that being said I can't say enough about how beautifully this work was composed and how rich and compelling the content is. I would suggest people who consider themselves "of faith" and not alike read this as it really does open the mind to analyze and discern the meaning of our earthly existence.

If you've read a lot of "B16", then you will recognize him in this document and Pope Francis' additions will be very clear to you. Lumen Fidei was a wonderful back and forth between the two, like a responsorial psalm, both perspectives praising the same Truth. Enjoy !!

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