



The Apostles: The Origin of the Church and Their Co-Workers

Pope Benedict XVI

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Through the Apostles, we come to Jesus himself. -- Pope Benedict XVI
In this fascinating and inspirational journey with the chosen disciples of Jesus, Pope Benedict XVI demonstrates a profound, unbreakable continuity -- built upon the foundation of the Apostles and alive in the succession of the Apostles -- by which Christ is present today in His Church. At the start of the third millennium, my beloved predecessor John Paul II invited the Church to contemplate the Face of Christ (cf. *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, n. 16 ff.). Continuing in the same direction, I would like to show in this book how it is precisely the light of that Face that is reflected on the face of the Church (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 1), notwithstanding the limits and shadows of our fragile and sinful humanity. After Mary, a pure reflection of the light of Christ, it is from the Apostles, through their word and witness, that we receive the truth of Christ. Their mission is not isolated, however, but is situated within a mystery of communion that involves the entire People of God and is carried out in stages from the Old to the New Covenant. -- From *The Apostles*

The Apostles: The Origin of the Church and Their Co-Workers Details

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From Reader Review The Apostles: The Origin of the Church and Their Co-Workers for online ebook

Julie Davis says

I read this several years ago, though in a version that didn't have the beautiful art included in this version.

This is a series of homilies that Pope Benedict XVI gave which, I believe, began his series of teaching homilies. Eventually he proceeded to discuss the Church Fathers, various saints, Saint Paul, prayer, and other such topics. They are a real gift to us today and to the Church for the future.

I didn't realize, or had forgotten, that this series began with three discussions of community. With that in mind, the life of each of the apostles is examined and then used as springboards for each of us to examine our own lives in Christ and our relationship to God. These are good whether you want to know the background and life of each person or are looking for something deeper.

Each discussion really meant something to me and I found them inspirational as well as helpful. This is done within a few pages for each person and with a simplicity that is deceptive, as is often the case with Benedict's writing. (I'm a fan, so there's that to consider.)

Highly recommended.

Kathy Petersen says

The Pope Emeritus' little book is more devotional than historical but firmly set on the base of the bible and quite interesting for what it is.

Laine says

highly recommended. Better to read as an adoration book - read some and let it soak in. There is a study guide available for this book online.

Charles Bell says

Was a good introduction.

Luke Dagher says

Pope Benedict the XVI continues to inspire me through his elegant and theological writings. The Apostles is a fantastic, short book on the direct apostles of Christ and the apostles of the apostles.

The book is constructed in short chapters, allowing for the reader to focus on one Apostle or significant person at a time. I found this style to be very helpful in learning about each Apostle and Co-worker.

Another aspect of the structure of the book that I found to be very beneficial was the lead in that Pope Benedict XVI began with. The Origins of the Church- what the Church is, significance of communion, and the tradition of God's grace through The Spirit and "Apostolic wisdom and authoritative discernment."

My favorite Apostle is St. Andrew and so my favorite aspect of this book was his chapter. Pope Benedict XVI elaborated on his mission and his final moments in which, on the cross, St. Andrew said:

"Hail, O Cross, inaugurated by the Body of Christ and adorned with his limbs as though they were precious pearls. Before the Lord mounted you, you inspired an earthly fear. Now, instead, endowed with heavenly love, you are accepted as a gift. Believers know of the great joy that you possess, and of the multitude of gifts you have prepared. I come to you, therefore, confident and joyful, so that you too may receive me exultant as a disciple of the One who was hung upon you....O blessed Cross, clothed in the majesty and beauty of the Lord's limbs!...Take me, carry me far from men, and restore me to my Teacher, so that, through you, the one who redeemed me by you, may receive me. Hail, O Cross; yes, hail indeed!"

I recommend this book to all believers and especially those who are unbelievers.

booklady says

This book takes the homiletical talks given by Pope Benedict XVI to his weekly general audiences from mid-March 2006 through mid-February of the following year and synthesizes them into mini-meditations. I read this book with an on-line book club using Amy Welborn's Study Guide which groups the chapters together topically into twelve sessions. However, the book can be read sequentially, in any order or no particular order; each talk providing the excellent basis for individual or small group silent prayer/meditation.

In the opening chapter, "Christ and the Church" PBXVI teaches us how we have come to know and love Our Lord through His Apostles. In fact, all we know of Him has come down to us through their loving hands, passed down, at first by word of mouth and then eventually written into Holy Scripture. By coming to a deeper appreciation of the Twelve and their beginnings, we can only learn more about Jesus who hand picked them to start His Church.

Altogether there are thirty-one short chapters, usually one per Apostle, with the exception being Peter, John and later St. Paul. After the Holy Father covers the original Twelve, or actually thirteen -- as Matthias replaced Judas -- he goes on to discuss a number of the other early disciples who were significant to the establishment of the early Church including: Saul/Paul, Stephen, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Silas, Apollos, Pricilla and Aquilla.

Jesus, The Apostles, and the Early Church is basically the same book as *The Apostles*, the difference being the former is published by *Ignatius Press* and contains the exact text of the Holy Father's talks; the latter is published by *Our Sunday Visitor* and consolidates the material topically. Substantively they are interchangeable and so I have given them almost identical reviews.

Indispensable and concise references for any study of the early Church! Excellent for group study or

individual reflection!

Leroy Seat says

This book probably would not have published if it had been written by anyone else as it is not very profound.

Noonie says

Little happy homilies from Pope Benny. Nothing challenging or profound. Anyone familiar with the Orthodox Church's book The Holy Apostles, would find this a very narrow, simplistic overview of the apostles. His primary source is the New Testament with a few references to early church fathers and very little on traditions. Therefore this book would be appreciated by both Catholics and Protestants.

Ryan says

Great book to sort through the work of the original Apostles... especially some of the lesser known ones. This book was adapted from a series of talks Pope Benedict gave for his Wednesday audiences. Therefore, it reads much differently than his other writings. With the more common language, you can tell it was a speech.

Kirsten says

This book is a fulfilling read. It expounds on the 12 Apostles and those like Paul who played an important role in the early church. The book simply helps us to understand the message of those early church missionaries. Benedict uses the bible as a crucial instrument to highlight the various roles and thinking of those early apostles.. He sees it as necessary that we go back to the foundation of Catholicism to find our way to Christ. Benedict highlights St Paul as a giant of theological thinking and action and gives us Paul's message. That is to keep Christ central in our lives, to exist with the Holy Spirit within and to take in Paul's dedication to the development of the church through those early church communities. I found that after reading this book I wanted to go back to the bible and read more about these men and women. Benedict writes so clearly and concisely which enables you to digest the book in reasonable time as well as giving you a crucial understanding of these early figures.

Gil Michelinini says

This is a good introduction to the Apostles. The text is taken from homilies the pope gave. It starts strong with great insight on the most well known of the 12 and then trickles to the end as if he ran out of material. Another review wrote that had this been written by any one else, it would not have been published, and I agree with that insight.

Abe says

This is a picture book for adults... an easy presentation of a series of speeches that Pope Benedict gave during the year 2006. If you don't know the difference between Simon, Jude, or Andrew, then this book will help you learn something unique about each one of the apostles. There's at least one good insight in every chapter. And the classic art works alone are worth flipping through the pages--they truly do speak another thousand words. For those who live in Boise, this is available at our local public library.

Evan says

Good primer on the background of each of the Apostles and the significance of each man's selection by Jesus. Quick read, not an in depth analysis. It provides an insight into how their background and contributions helped to spread the Word to the world.

Eduardo Garcia-Gaspar says

Muy recomendable. Ligero, claro, ordenado. Una respuesta a quiénes fueron los apóstoles por parte de un gran teólogo. Y dentro de esa ligereza cada lector encuentra su profundidad, tanta como él quiera. Lo fascinante es descubrir el origen del Cristianismo y su sentido actual.

Sarah - All The Book Blog Names Are Taken says

Interesting read (though I'm not Catholic); I found this to be informative and interesting, as sometimes it is very easy to forget or confuse who did what. Especially helpful as I've begun to really dig in and read Scripture again.
