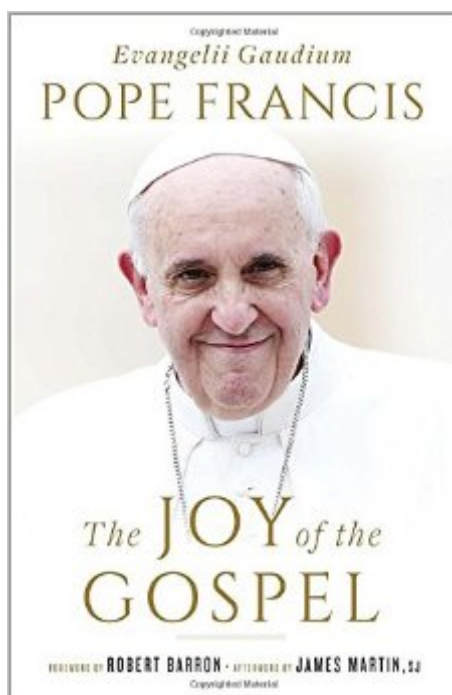


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# The Joy Of The Gospel (Specially Priced Hardcover Edition): Evangelii Gaudium



## Synopsis

The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come. Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned, the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small. Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

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## Customer Reviews

Evangelii Gaudium or The Joy of the Gospel was an apostolic exhortation delivered by Pope Francis on November 24, 2013, which was the Solemnity of Christ the King and the conclusion of the Year of Faith. In the introduction, Pope Francis gives Biblical examples showing the relationship between the joy of the Christian faith and the joy of missionary work. The rest of the exhortation is divided into five chapters: The Church's Missionary Transformation Amid the Crisis of Communal Commitment, The Proclamation of the Gospel, The Social Dimensions of Evangelization, Spirit-filled Evangelizers, and Looking at the numbers of this document, it is clearly a large document. It is 47,560 words. In this glut of words, Pope Francis uses the word "love" 154 times, "joy" 109 times, "the poor" 91 times, "peace" 58 times, "justice" 37 times, and "common good" 15 times. These figures were taken from Wikipedia. I am not going to analyze the words in this document. More brilliant minds than mine have done so. Instead, I am going to briefly compare two editions released by two different publishers. This edition screams papal edition with its bright white cover. The unique features of this book are as follows. 1. It is a hardcover, so you know it will last longer and have shelf appeal. 2. It is deckle edged, which gives it a unique look. 3. It has a Foreword written by Fr. Robert Barron and an Afterword by Fr. James Martin. 4. The notes are at the bottom of the appropriate page and not at the end like normally issued by the Vatican. The only weird thing is the Table of Contents of the actual document (not the book) is in the back instead of the front and listed as an Index.

Few people alive today are more popular and polarizing than Pope Francis. No one seems sure quite how to respond to the Bishop of Rome, nor are they sure whose side (if any) he is taking in ongoing theological and cultural debates. Sensational media claims about Francis "revolutionizing" the Catholic faith are overblown, to be sure, but Catholics of a staunch traditionalist bent also right in noting that the current successor to Peter is no mirror image of his papal predecessors. It was thus with great anticipation that I read Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*, if for no other reason than to engage the Pope on his own terms. *The Joy of the Gospel* is the English translation of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (New York: Image Books, 2013). Francis' main thrust throughout this exhortation is to call Christians to the "joy of the Gospel"; this he does superbly while drawing in a number of topics to his primary discussion. For Francis, the true joy of the Gospel centers on the proclamation of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and coming return (5). Francis calls the faithful to a "renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ" which transcends personal concerns and leads to a life of transformation. This transformative joy should invigorate faith, center our life of Christ and His

Church, and lead us to gladly evangelize and engage our world. The evangelization that Francis advocates does not center around proselytizing, but instead emphasizes relationship and the transformation of existing institutions and systems. In order to address the challenges of the present age and transform cultures, Francis is not afraid to change the tactics of the Church.

This is a review of the book *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. People all over the world -religious and irreligious alike- do not know quite how to take Pope Francis. In his short time as the head of the Catholic Church he has done things to both encourage and confound people. On one occasion he makes statements that could hint towards a more progressive view of marriage, but another time he takes a pretty conservative stance on birth control. What does one make of this guy? *The Joy of the Gospel* gives the insider/outsider some perspective into what lens to apply to view the actions of the Pope. *The Joy of the Gospel*, much like his actions, seems to be motivated by a desire to connect and engage with people on the topic of the message of the saving love of Jesus. The book deals with topics broad and applicable to an entire Church community as well as those which can be narrowed ones which focus on the individual in Community. He discusses the role of the Church as messengers and its members as emissaries. What is refreshing about this book though is how Pope Francis addresses some of the other issues which seem to be overlooked. This is not a Pope motivated by hardline rhetoric, but love and dialogue. The best chapter in the the book is the chapter "The Social Dimensions of Evangelization." In it, Pope Francis provides almost a primer on how navigate daily life and living the Gospel. He advocates for thinking clear-headed and realistically, leaving space for the realities of life, even when they stand in direct opposition to our beliefs and ideas. He endorses interfaith dialogue and showing patience/tolerance for those who might disagree. *The Joy of the Gospel* would make a good read for a daily devotional.

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