



Pope John XXIII: The Good Pope

Wyatt North

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John XXIII was nicknamed “The Good Pope” because of his humble, loving, and open character and his gracious sense of humor. In possessing those attributes, he is viewed by many to be similar to Pope Francis today.

Like Pope Francis, Pope John was wont to stroll about Rome by night and make pastoral visits to sick children and prison inmates. John’s secretary, the Italian prelate Loris Capovilla, heard the news from Pope Francis himself and remarked how appropriate it was for the step to be taken by “the successor most similar” to John.

Shortly before Pope John’s death, the International Balzan Foundation, which is headquartered in Milan and Zurich, awarded Pope John its Peace Prize. Then, in December 1963, President Lyndon Johnson posthumously awarded him the United States’ Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award.

The canonization of Pope John XXIII was announced by Pope Francis shortly after the fiftieth anniversary of John’s death. The date for canonization has been set for April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter.

Pope John XXIII: The Good Pope Details

Date : Published February 6th 2014 by Wyatt North Publishing, LLC

ISBN :

Author : Wyatt North

Format : Kindle Edition 109 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, History, Religion, Christianity, Catholic

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From Reader Review Pope John XXIII: The Good Pope for online ebook

Margaret Hanson says

Pope John XXIII The Good Pope

I rated this book as a 5 it is well written & gives an overview of the humble beginnings of the life of Pope John XXIII (Saint John XXIII) . Such a rich, loving, caring and Christian life he lived. He was known as "the Good Pope" as he spent much time among the people, always smiling & laughing, administering to his flock at night in Rome. Pope John called the Second Vatican Council to bring the Church from the medieval period to the present time. To finally make the changes that were needed. Such is the same with Pope Francis, he has many of the same qualities of Pope John . The book gives us a beginning insight into the beginning life of Pope Francis. For those of us who remember the reign of Pope John and the changes for the better he made will see in Pope Francis the kindered spirit of Pope John.

Carolyn says

I knew nothing about Pope John XXIII and Vatican II. This book gives a good overview on this mans life, but is not in depth.

Heather Erickson says

Very informative, and interesting

I really enjoyed learning about Pope John XXIII. This book was well written, and kept my attention. I read it in one evening (I couldn't put it down). I recommend this to Catholics to learn about one of the newest canonized Saints, and Protestants to learn about a great man and fellow Christian.

Cheryl Ann Wills says

What a heart warming story of a truly good man. I loved learning about his childhood and his philosophy of life. Easy read.

Steven R. McEvoy says

This book was an awesome little read. A short quick sweet introduction to the man and his short service as

pope. Pope John XXIII soon to be canonized has always appealed to me. I was not alive during Pope John XXII's term as pope. But I always felt drawn to him. Many today compare Pope Francis to John the XXIII and after reading this book I can see why.

Much of the background and younger years I was unaware of. I was familiar with his election and the calling of Vatican Council II. The book gives a great overview of his whole life.

The chapters are:

An Introduction

Background

The Young Priest

Leaving Italy

Electing a New Pope

The New Pope

The Second Vatican Council

Other Bold Steps

Additional Measures

Pope John's Message

Pope John and the Liturgy

Pope John and Women

Pope John and the Jews

Death

Legacy

The Rosary

Once I started reading the book I did not want to put it down. Fortunately it is a short introduction into Pope John XXIII's life. It was a great little read and has inspired me to dig deeper in to John XXIII's life before his canonization later this spring.

Read the review on my blog [Book Reviews and More](#).

Christopher says

Short fan fiction. Essentially follows the outline of the Wikipedia entry, section by section, expounded upon only to denigrate those who disagreed with or came before him. One star added because it was free.

Paula Howard says

Pope John XXIII: The Good Pope is a short but accurate portrayal of one of our Greatest Popes. John XXIII was born into a family of poverty which makes it amazing that he became Pope. It also explains his interests in issues of social justice.

Elected in 1968, following the death of Pope Pius XII, Cardinal Roncalli took the name of John XXII. That name in and of itself created issues. The last John in the Papacy was John XXII, an anti-Pope. The question was what # of John was he. Since no legitimate heir to the Papacy had been John XXIII, he took that name.

interesting facts:

- served in the military twice -- once as a seminaritan and once as a priest
- elected as a as an interim - due to his age of 77, it was believed that he would have a short papacy and would just keep the status quo
- Pope for 4 years and 7 months
- has the inspiration for Vatican II - the open the windows of the Vatican and allow fresh air in
- 1st Council of the Church not called for a specific problem within the Church - usually a heresy
- Pope John XXIII made it clear that this was to be a postive council
- Council ran from 1962-1965
- Pope John XXIII presided over the 1st session
- activist on the world stage - he was not shy about exerting his moral authority
- wrote 8 Enclylicals (Papal Letters) during his Papcy
- Support the use of the Vernacular (lang. of the people) in the Mass
- while he supported the use of the Vernacular he kept Latin as the official lang of the Church and believed it still had a place within it
- began the healing process between the Jewish Faith and the Catholic Church
- believe to have saved more Jewish lives and improve relationship with the Jewish church than any other Catholic in history
- prayed the Rosary several times daily

While many have been critical of Vatican II, I believe it was a brainchild of a brillant man that set the Roman Church on a much needed path

Wyatt North also points out that there is a similarity between Pope John XXII and our current Holy Father, Pope Francis. I find that there is such a commonality between them. People are responding to Pope Francis as they did to Pope John XXIII.

Wonderful book for anyone who wishes to brush up on their knowledge of John XXIII or wishes to learn about him prior to his Canonization as a Saint.

Susan says

Short but very informative biography of the new saint. Sometimes North's biases hang out--apparently he didn't like Pius XII. So much of this history was just before "my time" and so I didn't appreciate how recent the changes in attitudes were.

Maureen says

Nonfiction. Pope John XXIII The Good Pope, Wyatt North. Born in humble beginnings in a small village in Lombard Italy, Pope John is remembered for his devotion to the poor, isolated, defenseless and understating and respect for all souls seeking spiritual enlightenment. Upon on becoming Pope, he went out of the vatican daily and in the evenig visiting people in hospitals, prisons and in the streets. I knew little of this man, who opened up the Vatican through Vatican II and will be canonized by Francis on 4/27/14. I was impressed with

his outreach for the rights of workers and man. In fact, it seems Pope Francis is much like him.

Ralph says

In the light of Pope John XXIII's canonization, it's as instructive as inspirational to consider his life and deeds. Unlike the Pope he followed, he came from very humble beginnings, and while his life-path took him very far from those beginnings, they were always, in a sense, in his heart. As he rose in the hierarchy of the Church he was exposed to, and at times buffeted and abused by, the politics of the Church, as well as the other governments; he developed a sensibility about politics inside and outside the Church, even learned to use those forces to an extent, but always managed to remain above the mire that has snared so many others. In this book he is often portrayed as a "catholic" pontiff rather than a "Catholic" one, in that he saw the universality of humanity under God, reaching out to non-Catholic Christians and Jews, as well as other religions not stemming from the Judaeo-Christian tradition. The book shows how he transformed, modernized and made kinder many aspects of the Catholic Church, yet still included those who did not agree with his changes. Despite the life he led, and the changes he wrought, Pope John XXIII was a simple man, with a simple faith and a simple message, and in this book that man, faith and message are presented in a clear and uncluttered narrative. No matter your religious leanings, this short biography is well worth reading.

Albert says

It is A very informative book on the Life of Pope John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli), The work he did behind the scenes for Jews and all the poor. The belief he had in all are equal. He started Vatican II. The Current Pope Francis and John the XXIII believed in the poor and both personalities were very similar. A short book but showed A lot about Pope John XXIII.

Thadeus says

I read this book prior to the canonization of Pope John XXIII this past weekend. It was a perfect length and depth for an introduction to this newly recognized saint.

I found it helpful in learning about his background, where he came from, and how he served before becoming the pope.

Recommended.

Rich Meyer says

Not a bad look at the driving force behind Vatican II, though a bit encyclopedic at times. The good personality and the caring shown by the subject show through, a rare thing considering the modern intolerance exhibited by the American conservative cult that passes for Christianity today.

Liz Wood says

enjoyable

john XXIII filled me with hope at the time. The development of john's personality clearly show the man's dedication to the so long ignored social conscience of the church. I also enjoyed the couple. of chapters about pope francis.
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