



The Fathers

Pope Benedict XVI

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

The Fathers

Pope Benedict XVI

The Fathers Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict XVI carefully explains the stories of early Church fathers, their rich history, and the vital role each one played in not only preserving the Church at the time, but anchoring the Church of today as well as the future.

The Fathers Details

Date : Published August 18th 2008 by Our Sunday Visitor (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9781592764402

Author : Pope Benedict XVI

Format : Hardcover 201 pages

Genre : Christianity, Catholic, Religion, Theology, History, Nonfiction, Spirituality

 [Download The Fathers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Fathers ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Fathers Pope Benedict XVI

From Reader Review The Fathers for online ebook

James says

A great overview of the early Church fathers, focusing on how each one of them contributed to the development of the Faith. I especially enjoyed the chapter on St. Augustine. Another winner from Pope Benedict XVI.

My only quibble is that the editors of the edition did a poor job with the citations and sometimes did not clearly state the referenced material but used indecipherable abbreviations. Sometimes I could figure out what the referenced material was later in a chapter because the Pope would reference the title directly, sometimes I would have no clue. This makes it hard to look up the source material, which is disappointing.

Joshua Duffy says

My first reading of a Pope's writings, I was very impressed. This book is a very brief intro to some of the great Church Fathers. It definitely sparked a hunger for a deeper level of commitment to Christ.

Harry Dudley says

Even having studied the Father's of the church in the past - I found this to be a great review and overview that re-sparked my interest. One can see the rootedness of our Church teaching and the connection between our faith and life. This was very worthwhile read during this Year of Faith.

Patrick says

I first read this in 2009, but it was more fun to re-read this year with friends in a men's prayer and bible study group. Each of the 26 chapters in this book introduces readers to a different father of the Church. Given the timeline involved (the book starts with Saint Clement, the third man to succeed the Apostle Peter as Bishop of Rome, and ends with Saint Augustine of Hippo, who died August 28, 430), it's safe to say that the patrimony discussed here, while unmistakably Roman Catholic, belongs to all Christians.

One gets the impression that Pope Benedict XVI did not have to do a lot of research in preparing these vignettes, because he's long been familiar with the lives and works that he surveys here for our benefit.

Pope Benedict's language is not always as clipped and Hemingwayesque as American readers might prefer, but his appreciation for what the Fathers did comes through loud and clear. Every chapter is educational, and more than a few have hidden gems. I learned, for example, that Ignatius of Antioch was the first to describe the Church as "catholic" or "universal." Meanwhile, Justin Martyr boldly proclaimed that "whatever things were rightly said among all men are the property of us Christians." Irenaeus of Lyons agreed with Justin, but was also careful to point out that there is no secret doctrine concealed in the Church's common Creed, and "no superior Christianity for intellectuals." Pope Benedict mentions that it was Tertullian who introduced

language about "one substance" and "three Persons" to conversations about the Trinity. The pope also notes that Tertullian went off the rails late in his life because he lacked the humility to integrate himself with the Church.

Christians who too often ignore Church history in the interval between Saint Paul and Martin Luther might be pleased to find out that Saint Cyril of Alexandria was writing in 433 that "the Christian faith is first and foremost the encounter with Jesus, "a Person, which gives life a new horizon."

More gems: Ambrose of Milan was the bishop who got Augustine of Hippo to straighten up and fly right. Maximus of Turin, "without being too obvious," managed to "preach a profound relationship between a Christian's and a citizen's duties," because "in his eyes, "living a Christian life also meant assuming civil commitments." Not long after that, Saint Jerome, who is famous for translating biblical texts from Greek into Latin, was also making the point that "the privileged place for reading and listening to the Word of God is the liturgy."

In other words, everybody was up to something. There are men here from the East, and men from the West. Pope Benedict treats every one of them as illustrious peeps to whom Christians still owe a great debt.

booklady says

I've just finished this and already I am ready to begin it again ... except for the fact that now I have so many other excellent and learned men I want to read. Where to begin?

Pope Benedict's book is a fine *introduction* to the Church Fathers, but it is only that, an introduction. He barely scratches the surfaces of their writings, seeking rather to give the reader a brief and tantalizing glimpse into the life, times and thought of the many, rather than an in-depth perspective on the few.

Still a fine and worthwhile place to begin one's journey into the wisdom of the early Church.

Ryan says

A book of vignettes concerning the Apostolic, Pre-Nicene, and Post-Nicene Fathers up to St. Augustine. Certainly worth reading, especially the section on Augustine.

Ron says

I've read this book some time ago, but have read again in preparation for coursework at the seminary. What struck me most in reading about the Early Church Fathers is that most of their writings had some common themes: homilies against Arianism, the centrality of the Eucharist, the preeminence of the See of Peter, a focus on unity of doctrine, and a willingness to suffer for the proclamation of truth, even to the point of martyrdom.

Sigurður says

Á miðvikudögum flytja páfarnir venjulega ávarp fyrir almenning og tala á ítölsku. Benedikt hefur í þessum ræðum oft borið niður í lífi og kenningu kirkjufeðranna, sem snemma á öldum rituðu merkar bœkur um kristni. Hér hefur verið safnað saman í enskri þýðingu 36 slíkum ávörpum páfans. Svo að einhvers staðar sé borið niður, skal Origenes nefndur, sem er í hópi hinna umdeildari kirkjufeðra, þótt ekki sé á allra foeri að vita, í hverju kenningu hans var áfátt. Og það er ekki viðfangsefni páfans, heldur skýrir hann út gagnið, sem má hafa af ritum og aðferð Origenesar – fjallar satt að segja um manninn á mjög nærfærinn og upplýsandi hátt. Svo að kaflinn um heilagan Hieronymus sé tekinn sem annað dœmi, bendir páfi á leiðbeiningar hans um lestur á Bíblíunni, á hverjum einasta degi og með bœnagerð á undan og eftir, sem allt fólk eigi að temja sér. Þetta finnst bloggaranum ágæt bók, bæði út af slíkum heilræðum og traustum fróðleik. Þar sem kaflar eru sjálfstœðir og hóflega langir, má lesa hana með ýmsum hætti. Framsetning páfa á gömlum og flóknum viðfangsefnum kirkjufeðranna verður að teljast svo aðgengileg, að byrjendur í þeim fræðum geta vel haft af henni gagn. Mörg þessi fornu rit liggja frammi á vefnum, ef fólk langar til að lesa meira. - Ef galla skyldi kalla, er bókin auðvitað ekki samin sem bók, heldur sem mörg ávörp af áþekkri tímalengd. Þess vegna vinna kaflarnir ekki saman sem ein heild, á sama hátt og algengast er í samfelldum bókum. Þetta er bara svona, eins og í pottinn er búið, og ber ekki að skoðast sem gagnrýni á höfund eða útgefanda.

Quân Nguy?n says

good

Rev. Ritchie says

Short but profound expositions of the lives and thought of the Fathers of the Church. Highly recommended, especially as a helpful but brief overview of the principal Church Fathers.
