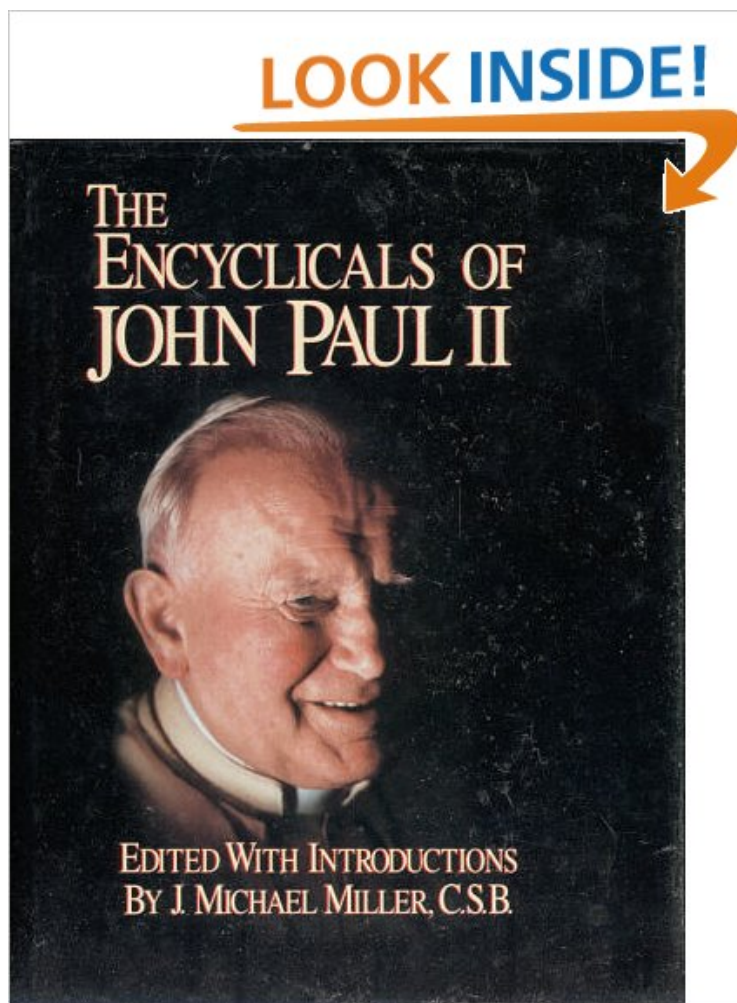


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The Encyclicals Of John Paul II



Synopsis

A study of Pope John Paul II's encyclicals reveals the vision and strategy of his pontificate. It is a vision which at once recalls the mysteries of faith and appeals to all men and women of good will to build the future on a firm spiritual and ethical foundation.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1008 pages

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor; First Edition edition (November 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0879737263

ISBN-13: 978-0879737269

Product Dimensions: 2 x 7.8 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #908,593 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Canon Law #7888 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism #14727 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects

Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin

Here they are, in one collection. Why buy them individually when you can have them all in one place? This important book provides a study of 12 of Pope John Paul II's encyclicals, from the first of his pontificate, *Redemptor Hominis*, through the much discussed *Evangelium Vitae* and *Veritatis Splendor*, the not-to-be-overlooked *Redemptoris Mater*, and *Ut Unum Sint*. Scholars and non-scholars will be pouring over the Pope's gifts for the next century to come. The encyclicals offer Pope John Paul II's brilliant blueprint for the third millennium. It is a blueprint fashioned from Scripture itself, but with modern insights to carry us forward across the "threshold of hope." J. Michael Miller, C.S.B. offers an excellent introduction to Papal encyclicals and helpful notes prior to each chapter. In addition, an exhaustive index makes this a superb reference for pastors, teachers, writers, theologians, researchers, and the average layperson desiring to know more about the Church.

These are Encyclicals of a great Pope who has very recently been declared a Saint. He has something special to say to all of us and Saint John Paul II says it in a way that is interesting and readable. I ordered this book in May for a special reason: so that I could re-read his Encyclical REDEMPTORIS MATER (MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER) during the month when we think of Mary.

John Paul II's dynamic 26 years will fade from public awareness, I am sure; but these -- his most authoritative writings -- will, I believe, stand the test of time, along with his Theology of the Body reflections. Anyone interested in Christianity -- or, Catholics who want to understand better how to do God's will -- should read these encyclicals. This compilation is well done, on quality paper, in large enough print that you aren't straining to read. I have always preferred ink-on-paper over e-books -- and this one did not disappoint.

This is a BIG COMPLAINT and a PLEA to any Catholic publisher out there to BRING THIS INDISPENSIBLE BOOK BACK INTO PRINT! With a used copy costing \$141.00, and a new copy costing \$368.00 --- HOW is anyone other than a well-off academic library supposed to get this DEFINITIVE edition of the encyclicals of St. John Paul? These encyclicals revolutionized the Catholic Church in positive and healthy, traditional and forward-looking ways, much more so than Vatican II. In fact, these encyclicals provide the official guide of the magisterium for the interpretation of Vatican II, and are the essential bridge to The Catechism of the Catholic Church. How can this historical and theological seismic shifts in the Church become unavailable to the private Catholic? They should not!

'The Encyclicals of John Paul II' published by Our Sunday Visitor is little available and the price is often very inflated-- at several or many times the original listing price. Note well, then, that 'Papal Encyclicals of John Paul II (1978-2005)' is in print and available from Lulu press (a self publishing press), new, at a cost of \$30 (shipping not included.) The description at Lulu press says the following: "These are the collected encyclicals of Pope John Paul II. They are in English as found at www.vatican.va. This is a royalty-less edition- just printing costs." In conclusion, it is to be hoped that Lulu press (or other independent booksellers) may soon list this book on , so that buyers may buy the book direct from . Until that time, however, buyers should know that the book is available from Lulu press. Furthermore, and most importantly, this availability should put a kind of ceiling on the price of the Our Sunday Visitor edition, even if the price of OSV's edition should still be higher than

that of Lulu press... as the paper in the OSV edition appears to be of higher quality. On the other hand, the OSV edition uses very large type, in consequence the book is large and unwieldy, and so is much more prone to condition problems over time. This review is meant to be a help to all those who wish to have access to the encyclicals of the late holy father but are unable to, because the book's selling price is over inflated and not affordable.

Father Miller has captured an entire set of the most significant written works of the Papacy of John Paul II. Clearly the present pope has been a religious and geopolitical figure of first importance in the past 22 years, as has been amply documented in such works as Weigel's 'Witness to Hope' and Bernstein's 'His Holiness.' The universal intellectual achievement however of JPII is understandable most readily in his encyclicals. These documents speak from and reveal a philosopher and theologian of the first quality; indeed, as with Leo XIII, it may take at least a hundred years for the importance of his work to be understood. Fr. Miller has the qualifications on all fronts, as a philosopher, a theologian, and his former employment in the Papal Secretariat of State, to gather and remark on these works. Students of the times and their deepest roots will doubtlessly find here a collection of primary source materials that are indispensable to their understanding.

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