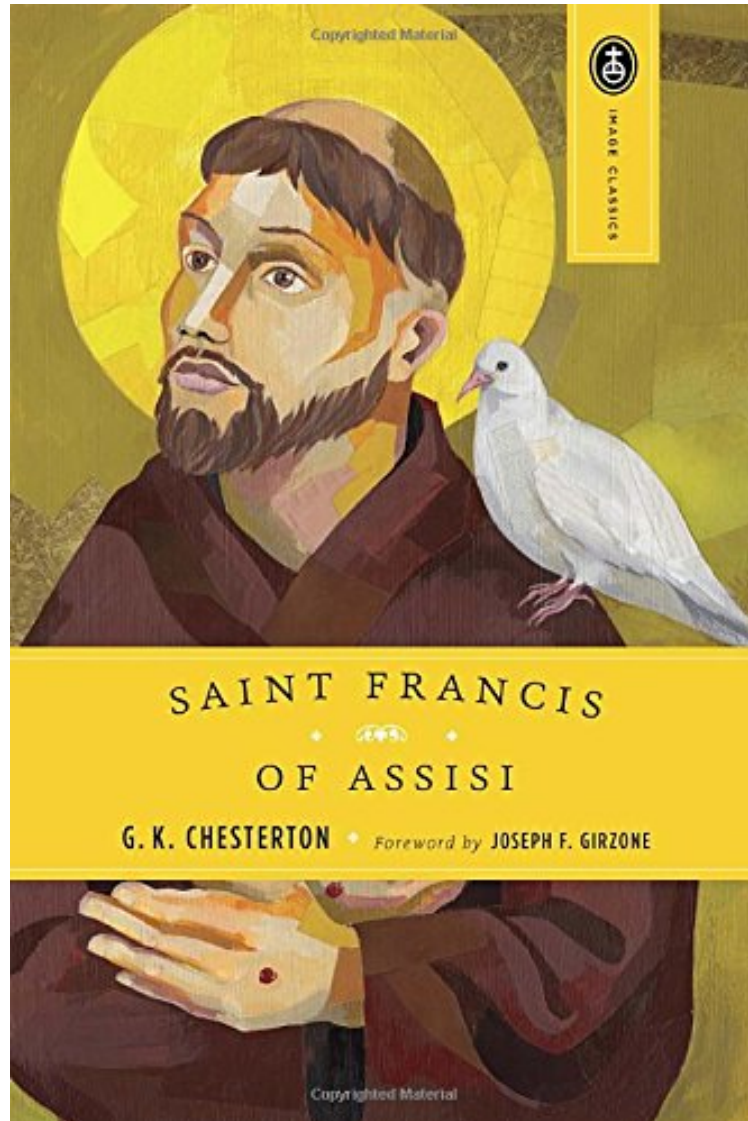


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St. Francis of Assisi

G. K. Chesterton

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#65666 in Books G K Chesterton 1987-12-17 1987-11-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.17 x .45 x 5.511, .41 #File Name: 0385029004176 pagesSaint Francis of Assisi | File size: 34.Mb

G. K. Chesterton : St. Francis of Assisi before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised St. Francis of Assisi:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a good value for the qualityBy WI-BrunnerThis is a good value for the quality. I had a recent confirmandi that took the name Francis for Confirmation, and I hope that this "biography" will help him to understand the Poor One of Assisi better. I put "biography" in quotes, since this is not a strict objective/historical biography, but rather is Chesterton's attempt (successful I would say) to share the charism of

St. Francis. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Heart of Chesterton By Doug Wenger In this short bio, we can see Chesterton's admiration for Francis. The author's own love of God's creation is something that he focuses on in the Italian Saint. This work seeks to play the middle ground, as Chesterton mentions a couple of times, and neither firmly accepts or denies the miraculous claims attributed to Francis. Some of Chesterton's typical wandering into philosophical discussion breaks the flow. But he manages to tie it in well to the over-all work. The chronology does not seem to flow, but rather the author seems to approach thoughts about Francis as they come to mind. With that being said, the chronology given at the end is helpful. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Interpretive sketch of the saint By Bernard M In his typical and insightful way, Chesterton gives his view on the well known saint against the backdrop of modernist critique. I would recommend reading a biography first, but this is a well worth read and stunningly poetic at times.

Francis of Assisi is, after Mary of Nazareth, the greatest saint in the Christian calendar, and one of the most influential men in the whole of human history. By universal acclaim, this biography by G. K. Chesterton is considered the best appreciation of Francis's life--the one that gets to the heart of the matter. For Chesterton, Francis is a great paradoxical figure, a man who loved women but vowed himself to chastity; an artist who loved the pleasures of the natural world as few have loved them, but vowed himself to the most austere poverty, stripping himself naked in the public square so all could see that he had renounced his worldly goods; a clown who stood on his head in order to see the world aright. Chesterton gives us Francis in his world--the riotously colorful world of the High Middle Ages, a world with more pageantry and romance than we have seen before or since. Here is the Francis who tried to end the Crusades by talking to the Saracens, and who interceded with the emperor on behalf of the birds. Here is the Francis who inspired a revolution in art that began with Giotto and a revolution in poetry that began with Dante. Here is the Francis who prayed and danced with pagan abandon, who talked to animals, who invented the creche.

.com There are certainly many studies of Saint Francis of Assisi that an interested reader might find and many of them immensely praiseworthy. But in reading G.K. Chesterton on Francis, you get two glories for one: first is an enlightening study of this most beloved of Christian saints and second is Chesterton himself, one of the great Christian writers of the 20th century, who converted to Roman Catholicism in 1922 because, it has been said, "only the Roman Church could produce a St. Francis of Assisi." Published shortly after his conversion, Chesterton wrote this book in part to reclaim Francis for the church. There are always those who want to claim Francis for their cause, Chesterton recognized, who also fail to understand the spiritual and intellectual ground upon which he stands. Chesterton would return Francis to Christ. As he summarizes, "however wild and romantic his gyrations might appear to many, [Francis] always hung on to reason by one invisible and indestructible hair.... The great saint was sane.... He was not a mere eccentric because he was always turning towards the center and heart of the maze; he took the queerest and most zigzag shortcuts through the wood, but he was always going home." As one editor of Chesterton's puts it, "of St. Francis he might have said what he said about Blake: 'We always feel that he is saying something very plain and emphatic even when we have not the wildest notion of what it is.'" --Doug Thorpe "his opinions shine from every page. The reader is rewarded with many fresh perspectives on Francis..." --Franciscan, May 2002 From the Publisher Francis of Assisi is, after Mary of Nazareth, the greatest saint in the Christian calendar, and one of the most influential men in the whole of human history. By universal acclaim, this biography by G. K. Chesterton is considered the best appreciation of Francis's life--the one that gets to the heart of the matter. For Chesterton, Francis is a great paradoxical figure, a man who loved women but vowed himself to chastity; an artist who loved the pleasures of the natural world as few have loved them, but vowed himself to the most austere poverty, stripping himself naked in the public square so all could see that he had renounced his worldly goods; a clown who stood on his head in order to see the world aright. Chesterton gives us Francis in his world--the riotously colorful world of the High Middle Ages, a world with more pageantry and romance than we have seen before or since. Here is the Francis who tried to end the Crusades by talking to the Saracens, and who interceded with the emperor on behalf of the birds. Here is the Francis who inspired a revolution in art that began with Giotto and a revolution in poetry that began with Dante. Here is the Francis who prayed and danced with pagan abandon, who talked to animals, who invented the creche.