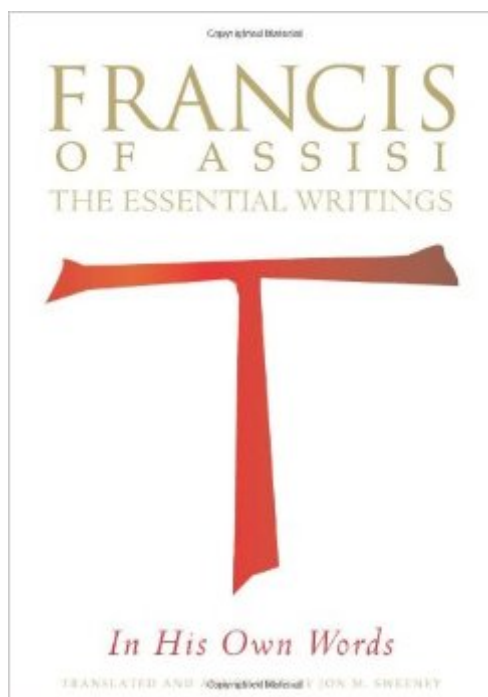


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Francis Of Assisi In His Own Words: The Essential Writings



Synopsis

Biographies of St. Francis will only take you so far. It's impossible to truly understand him without reading his writings. Sweeney has compiled all of the ones that we are most certain come from Francis himself, including his first Rule of life, the Rule he wrote for the Third Order, letters to friends, letters to people in power, messages to all Franciscans, songs, praises, canticles, and his final spiritual Testament. An introduction and explanatory notes throughout the book help to put the writings into historical and theological context.

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Customer Reviews

There are a host of misconceptions about St. Francis of Assisi--that he was a proto-hippie, a pantheist, a sentimental guy who preferred bunnies and birds to people. Jon Sweeney knows all these notions are nonsense--for years he's been studying and writing about Francis. Now he goes back to the original sources to give us the most accurate portrait possible of one of the most popular saints of all time. Pulling together the essential writings of St. Francis, Sweeney lets Francis tell us, in his own words, who he is and what he believes. For anyone interested in or devoted to St. Francis, this book is a gold mine.

It's hard to find a concise volume of Francis' writings. There tend to be voluminous collections, or scattered pieces in the appendices of biographies. This book is different. Sweeney has chosen the most important documents authored or dictated by Francis himself, and collected them in a slim

volume. I've read a lot of Francis literature, and there were some documents, particularly poems and prayers, that I had never read or even heard of. I liked the book because it was short, with good, concise commentary. He lets Francis speak, providing a minimum of introduction. But what he does provide, is helpful. I got to meet Jon at a conference, and he cares deeply about St. Francis. And it shows in this carefully edited volume. He also edited a classical biography of Francis by Paul Sabatier (The Road to Assisi), which I also liked.

Quickly. If you are looking for a book to give you a glimpse at the man and Saint. Please read.

Look no further, this is both a beautiful edition, as well as an excellent translation of those writings of St Francis that are most surely attributed to him. Introductions to each text provide helpful information on context and content, but most importantly the translation is highly enjoyable and inspiring. I've read other collections and this one definitely outranks them. Enjoy!

This is a wonderful book. It's not too long so can be read quickly, if necessary. Most of the material I had never read before so was a true learning experience about this great saint and the Franciscans. I highly recommend this to anyone interested in St. Francis.

As I am discerning becoming a 3rd Order Franciscan in the Episcopal church, I have found this book VERY helpful...wish I read this book first. Blessings Herb +

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