



# When Saint Francis Saved the Church: How a Converted Medieval Troubadour Created a Spiritual Vision for the Ages

By Jon M. Sweeney

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Jon M. Sweeney, bestselling author of *The Pope Who Quit*, offers a surprising look at the world's most popular saint, showing how this beloved-but-often-mythologized character created a spiritual vision for the ages and may very well have rescued the Christian faith. Now in paperback, this new edition--called "a contemporary classic-in-the-making" by the *National Catholic Reporter*--includes study questions.

In *When Saint Francis Saved the Church*, Jon M. Sweeney presents an intriguing portrait of St. Francis of Assisi beyond the distorted myths and legends handed down over the centuries. Sweeney's portrait--called "part biography, part devotional . . . a rare combination of history and inspiration" by *Patheos* blogger Jack Levinson--reveals a saint who was an unpredictable puzzle.

Sweeney outlines Francis's revolutionary approach to friendship, people at the margins, poverty, spirituality, care (for people, creatures, and the natural world), and death. This vibrant book presents the unsullied life and message of Francis in its essential details, offering a remarkable look at how Francis and his movement saved the Christian faith--and continues to offer a spiritual vision with contemporary relevance. Sweeney also ties in the link between Pope Francis and his namesake.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"An exciting, intelligent, and faithful understanding of Francis of Assisi--for our time and for all time! Read, and find hope!" --**Richard Rohr, O.F.M.**, Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico

"Jon Sweeney is good at many things, but he is a master at retrieving the treasure of the Christian past and restoring it to currency for the Christian present. In this book, he transcends even those categories."

--**Barbara Brown Taylor**, Author of *An Altar in the World*

"Reflecting with Jon Sweeney on the work and wisdom of St. Francis of Assisi orients us on how to pray for Pope Francis's efforts and to respond to his initiatives." --**Bert Ghezzi**, Author of *Voices of the Saints*

"This Francis is a Francis that readers may feel they are meeting anew and finding even more relevant in their lives." --**Murray Bodo, O.F.M.**, Author of *The Way of St. Francis*

"Jon Sweeney applies popular history to a man who changed history, St. Francis of Assisi. Deeply familiar with the Franciscan sources and writing in a very accessible style, Sweeney points to Pope Francis's inspiration. I like this book!" --**John Feister**, Editor-in-Chief of *St. Anthony Messenger*

"This well-informed meditation on the life of St. Francis is a delight to read. Jon Sweeney's careful and timely retelling of Francis's story deepens our understanding of why a twenty-first-century pope took the saint's name--and gives us hope for the future of the Church." -- --**Paul Moses**, Author of *The Saint and the Sultan*

#### About the Author

Jon M. Sweeney is an independent scholar and one of religion's most respected writers. His work has been hailed by everyone from PBS and James Martin, S.J., to Fox News and Dan Savage. He's been interviewed on CBS *Saturday Morning*, Fox News, CBS-TV Chicago, *Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*, and on the popular nightly program, *Chicago Tonight*.

The hardcover edition of *When Saint Francis Saved the Church* won a 2015 Catholic Press Association award for excellence in history. The committee wrote: "*An engagingly popular story.... In the manner of Thomas Cahill's How the Irish Saved Civilization, Jon Sweeney brings Francis to life.*" Several of his books have become History Book Club, Book-of-the-Month Club, Crossings Book Club, and Quality Paperback Book Club selections. His 2012 popular history, *The Pope Who Quit*, was published by Image/Random

House and optioned by HBO. It has sold more than 35,000 copies in the trade edition, was a selection of History Book Club, and received a starred review in *Booklist*. His other books include *Inventing Hell*, *The Complete Francis of Assisi*, and *The St. Francis Prayer Book*. Sweeney is the editorial director at Franciscan Media. He is married, the father of three, and lives in Vermont.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

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The experience that you get from When Saint Francis Saved the Church: How a Converted Medieval Troubadour Created a Spiritual Vision for the Ages will be the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but When Saint Francis Saved the Church: How a Converted Medieval Troubadour Created a Spiritual Vision for the Ages giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this kind of When Saint Francis Saved the Church: How a Converted Medieval Troubadour Created a Spiritual Vision for the Ages instantly.

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