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# The New Dawn of Pope Francis: Three Books Reviewed

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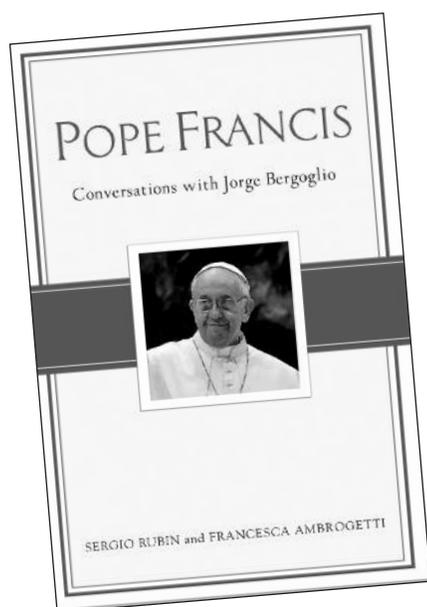
Brackley took the place of one of the six Jesuits murdered in 1989 with their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador and worked tirelessly for social justice. It was at the UCA that Kelly's meticulous research led him to discover and translate articles written by Rutilio in *Busqueda*, a journal where priests shared conversations about their ministries. He also interviewed numerous associates of Rutilio.

Kelly has spent considerable time in El Salvador both accompanying students on immersion programs and researching this book. Although he wrote it for students, the text has a far wider appeal to scholars and anyone interested in understanding the nexus between the church and politics in El Salvador or learning about Rutilio's understated but enduring influence on the Christian community. Sophisticated in its argument, the book remains broadly accessible by virtue of Kelly's crisp prose and willingness to clarify terms that may be unfamiliar to nontheologians. I discovered the book while preparing for a mission trip to El Salvador with the Ignatian Colleagues Program and found it to be an extraordinary resource. ■



Tom Kelly and participants in the Ignatian Colleagues Program pilgrimage to El Salvador in February 2014 at the site of the assassination of Rutilio Grande, S.J., and his lay companions.

Thomas Kelly is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Creighton University. He is the Immersion Coordinator for the Ignatian Colleagues Program. More information about the book can be found at <http://www.whenthegospelgrowsfeet.org/>



## The New Dawn of Pope Francis

### Three Books Reviewed

By Joseph A. Tetlow, S.J.

Three books rise out of the tsunami of papal image and myth-making. Taken together, they give a grasp of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis, adequate to keeping one's nose above the flood.

Start with *Pope Francis: Conversations with Jorge Bergoglio*, by Sergio Rubin and Francesca Ambrogetti. The Argentine journalists interviewed the cardinal-archbishop as he was

preparing for his mandatory retirement as Archbishop of Buenos Aires at age 75. The book appeared in Argentina as *El Jesuita* in 2010, and in 2013 in a fine English translation (Putnam, New York).

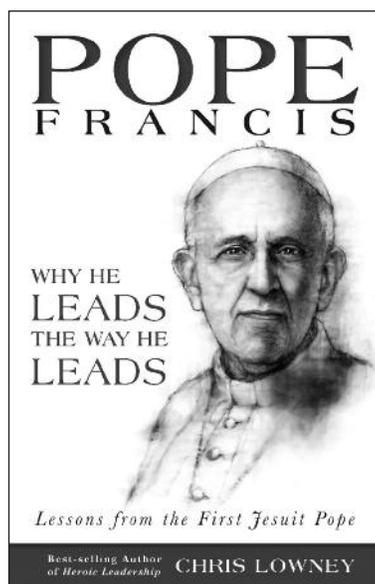
*Joseph A. Tetlow, S.J., the author of many works on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola, has served in Jesuit administration and in the formation of young Jesuits.*

## Book Review

The reporters posed informed and often pointed questions, only one or other time making you wish they'd pushed a point. They drew from this churchman some fairly satisfactory information on complex issues: his early authoritarianism, the two Jesuits disappeared from the slums, his self-image as a sinner saved. Many details about his family, youth, and vocation show that he had a real life before his final election. The reporters do very well in letting the pope speak for himself.

Cardinal Bergoglio emerges from these paragraphs as an integrated, transparent, intelligent, and deeply self-disciplined man. The spectacles of his first papal months – foot-washing, kissing the deformed, letting a little child hug his thighs while he's giving an address – far from being stunts turn out to be the kinds of thing that this man just naturally does.

Somehow too ordinary to be a superstar, Jorge Mario Bergoglio is proving almost too extraordinary as a pope. This is how Chris Lowney sees and studies him in *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads* (Loyola,



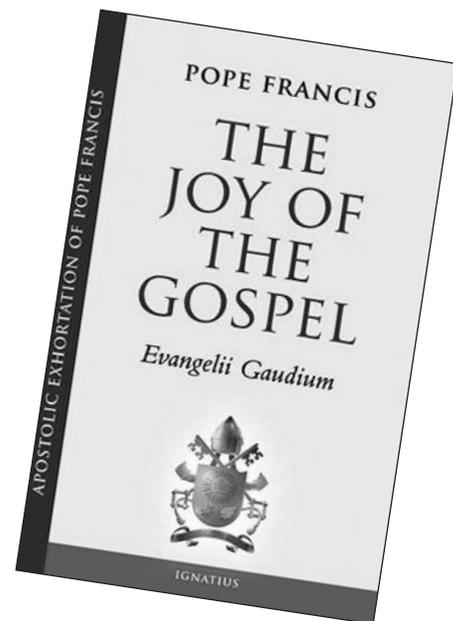
Chicago, 2013). Lowney's best-selling *Heroic Leadership* painted the "Ignatian way of proceeding" that has kept the Jesuits thriving for centuries as a model for contemporary leaders. At Loyola Press's invitation, he here probes how it works for the new pope.

Lowney did a lot of homework to find out. He interviewed Jesuit and lay Argentines whom Bergoglio has led. He knows Rubin and Ambrogetti's *El Jesuita* and Pope Francis's torrent of public utterances. He needs no further research into the "best business practices"; he has insider knowledge of them from a career as a managing director at J. P. Morgan and as chair of the board of the sprawling Catholic Health Initiative. He needs no instruction about Ignatian spirituality having been a Jesuit for some years.

His book weaves together the practices and theories of these two leaderships, secular and religious. Take the fact that Fr. Bergoglio moved at age 42 from being one of the top 200 leaders in this worldwide corporation (provincial) to being a supervisor of trainees (rector of a seminary). The business world's assessment of this: "Ouch. End of career." The Jesuit assessment: the best men for shaping future leaders.

The people whom Bergoglio led tell what they remember about his leadership. As provincial, he silently saved people from the military dictator. At the impoverished seminary, he took his turn feeding pigs, did his own laundry, and washed dishes after dinner. Lowney remarks that he led like the Marine officer who stands last in the food line, making sure his people are fed first. Lowney makes bulleted lists, as business leadership books are wont to do, but the items are arresting. How close can anyone get to defining the Jesuit "way of proceeding"?

Each of these two books is the best of its kind. But the unique source for knowing this pope is his own book-length exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (USCCB, Washington, D.C., 2013), which



the pope himself wrote while others were enjoying *ferragosto*, August holidays in Italy. The key is in paragraph 141: "Where your synthesis is, there lies your heart" – a paraphrase of Matthew 5:21. This book is Francis's synthesis and shows where his heart lies.

On one hand, it is a deeply conservative heart. He cites the Second Vatican Council and popes constantly – Paul VI, 21 times; John Paul II, 46 times; and Benedict, 19 times. The quotes do not decorate the text but make significant points. On the other hand, this is a deeply radical heart. Item: "Every single human being alive is *immensely holy*." [141] Item: Bishops, not Rome, should handle their own problems [16]. Item: Politics and business are noble, lofty vocations [203,205]. Item: Poverty in a society is a sickness and the "safety-net" is a temporary expedient [202]. Item: We can no longer trust in the unseen forces and the invisible hand of the market [204].

Papal documents do not stir people, Francis admitted, but this one has "programmatic significance and important consequences" [25]. Reading it – even at its length – is believing it. ■