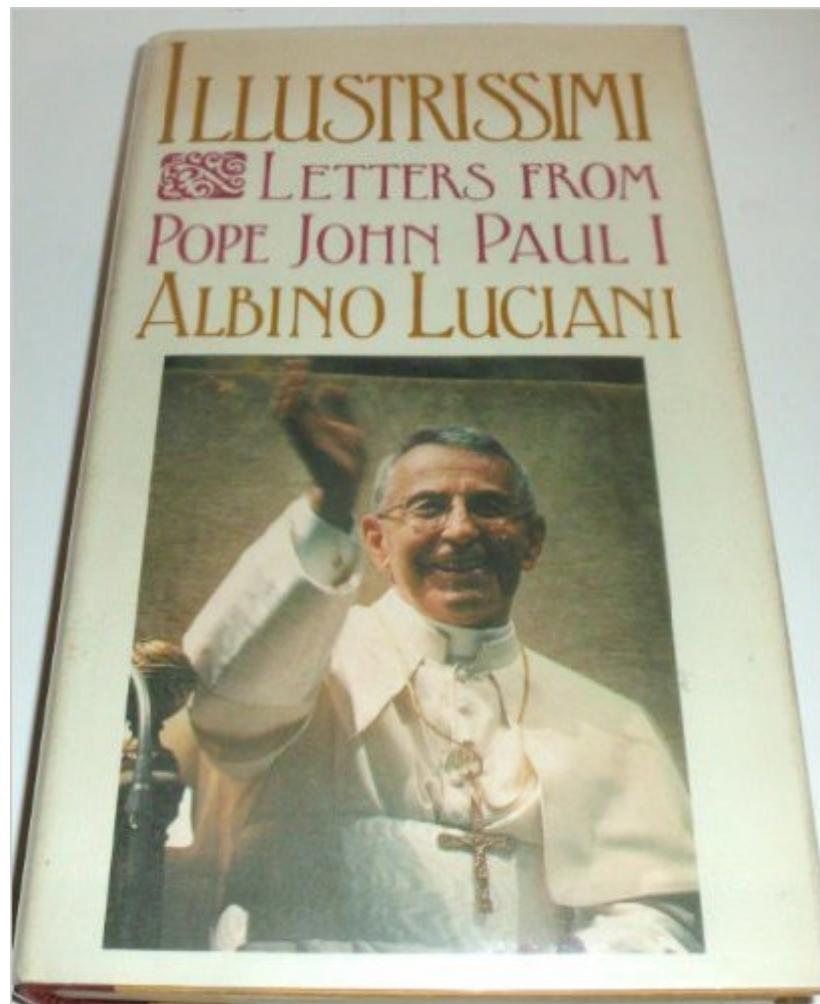


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# Illustrissimi: Letters From Pope John Paul I



## **Synopsis**

Letters to saints, authors, and illustrious historical figures, written for a monthly periodical when the future Pope was Cardinal Archbishop of Venice.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 258 pages

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is one of the closest pieces of work that we have to finding out what went on in the mind of John Paul I, Pope for a mere thirty-three days. Here, written when he was Patriarch of Venice, he writes to various people in literary and church history, and also in fiction. An amusing and witty book. Albino Luciani gets to the heart of the subject in each letter, and shows that sometimes the best answers are the most simple ones.

I came across this book by chance, after reading an excerpt of it online. For me it was a wonderful surprise, to discover the wisdom of the pope I knew so little about. Each of his letters is crafted with simplicity and insightfulness, addressing issues that are still very much important today. The range of topics and the diversity of his allusions demonstrate Pope John Paul's intelligence, and yet his letters, written with such humor and humanity, are accessible to almost any audience. Like Cardinal Wright wrote in the foreword, the joy and faith evident in these letters are messages the modern world so desperately needs to hear.

It is a shame that Pope John Paul I has been forgotten due to the fact that he was only Pope for a month. Nevertheless, this man of God, who wrote this book as a cardinal offered great insights into

human nature and the modern conditions of things by expressing them through little letters to people of the past and even fictional characters. I could not put this book down as I read each of the charming and inspirational letters to the characters in this book. I did not read the book cover to cover, rather I read the letters I believed would be more interesting (such as the one to G.K. Chesterton first and then the one to Pinocchio) I read those letters first. I was surprised that some of the letters I thought would not be as interesting were as charming and delightful as those that I found interesting on the surface or those addressed to characters I knew about. It is a shame this book is out of print, for I think such a book would be a bestseller even today. A great read from a man who was a unique Pope.

A look at the intelligence and wisdom of John Paul I. Humble, simple and inspiring. Far more cultured and sophisticated than the Vatican ever gave him credit for. One of his letters concerns a visit to the Venice Film Festival that year! His main source of worries were for the youth of his time, as the Patriarch of Venice and they still resonate today, almost to an unnerving degree. Snatch up a copy and you'll find something for everyone, Catholic and agnostic alike!

Papa Luciani was a marvelous writer. His work shows a clear understanding of humanity. His words have the clarity and profundity that make us grasp his teaching. He was blessed with a talent that just a few men had been bestowed.

I'm really pleased that I finally bought this book. I first heard of it twenty years ago, and then I saw it again recently on .com, one of my favorite book browsing sites. I received it in timely fashion, and have almost finished reading it. Thanks.

Albino Luciano shows a breadth of knowledge, self awareness and humor and an unsettling amount of clarity in these "letters". He's a very good person to read after you've read anything by St. Paul as he, Luciano, will clear you spiritual/emotional/intellectual palate.

Fun read from the Smiling Pope! Luciani (JPI) sends thoughtful letters to minds throughout history and some fictional characters. As a series of individual letters it is fun to read in "chunks". A nice insight to the soul of a Pope who reigned for far too short a time.

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