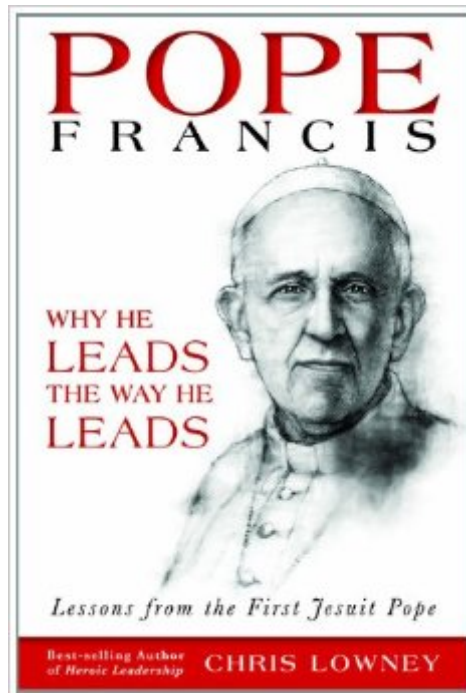


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Pope Francis: Why He Leads The Way He Leads



Synopsis

TIME Magazine's Person of the Year: Pope Francis Learn about the First Jesuit Pope from America's Leading Jesuit Publisher

Pope Francis by Chris Lowney is that rare and splendid work that leaves you keenly excited and spiritually moved. The writing is lucid, vivid, inviting, and rich. It's a major achievement. I strongly recommend it to any Christian in a leadership role.

• Joseph Tetlow, SJ

From choosing to live in a simple apartment instead of the papal palace to washing the feet of men and women in a youth detention center, Pope Francis's actions contradict behaviors expected of a modern leader. Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit seminarian turned Managing Director for JP Morgan & Co., shows how the pope's words and deeds reveal spiritual principles that have prepared him to lead the Church and influence our world—a rapidly-changing world that requires leaders who value the human need for love, inspiration, and meaning. Drawing on interviews with people who knew him as Father Jorge Bergoglio, SJ, Lowney challenges assumptions about what it takes to be a great leader. In so doing, he reveals the other-centered leadership style of a man whose passion is to be with people rather than set apart. Lowney offers a stirring vision of leadership to which we can all aspire in our communities, churches, companies, and families.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chris Lowney's book opens on page 2 with a disarming comment that sets the tone . . . "Some folks approach [leadership] opportunities knowing that they are superbly prepared to lead, and that

unshakable self-confidence stays with them every day of their careers. We call such people narcissists. They often get their organizations into trouble because, blinded by the radiant glow of their self-perceived greatness, they don't see what havoc they create or what misery they inflict on others."Core fundamental values of leadership rather than the latest fads or trends drive the themes of this book. Lowney demonstrates how Pope Francis exemplifies these principles and the Jesuit leadership tradition that has developed over centuries. Using his unequivocally unique perspective as both a former Jesuit seminarian and investment banker, Lowney weaves the religious and the secular together -- for example tying the tradition of prayer to our human need for quiet reflection to collect our thoughts in a world filled with a cacophony of sound and distractions that tend to make us reactive instead of proactive. I found myself going back and repeatedly underlining the insights in this book making sure to take notes as to what I have read so that I can, to put it bluntly, steal Lowney's lines for my next presentation to my colleagues or clients. Very few people have the perspective to put together such a plainly-spoken and effective book that draws upon a Catholic tradition and places at its center, Pope Francis, who has been and could still become a transformative historical figure. To be clear, Lowney expresses his frustration with his church and hopes that Francis can draw Catholics back and others in.

Best selling author, Chris Lowney, knows something about Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio's leadership journey to becoming the leader of the global Catholic Church as Pope Francis. Lowney, prior to becoming a successful investment banker at J.P. Morgan & Co., was a Jesuit seminarian, was trained the same as the pope. Both used "Ignatian Spiritual Exercises," the Jesuit handbook that is virtually unchanged and has successfully stood the test of time for 500 years. In "Pope Francis: Why He Leads The Way He Leads," Lowney maintains that Pope Francis is calling for a new approach to leadership - servant leadership - for the 21st century. Lowney argues dramatic change is needed since most Americans perceive those in leadership positions as "awful. Too often, those in leadership positions seem preoccupied only with their own status or income. They are unable to inspire or unite us; they are not imaginative enough to solve the seemingly intractable problems that plague us; they are afraid to make the tough choices or even to level with us; and they are insufficiently courageous to lead us through challenge and drive change."Pope Francis offers an alternative, one rooted in Jesuit understanding. The founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius of Loyola, felt excessive personal ambition to be the "mother of all evils in any community or congregation." He instructed the Jesuits "never to seek higher office" and developed a training program to "rein in the human tendency to stroke one's ego, by seeking status, power, and

advancement. He knew how organizational infighting could damage organizational morale."Jesuit training is what makes Pope Francis so distinctive. He has acted forcefully to shake us from our comfort zone with his "back-to-the future" 16th Century challenges:1.

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