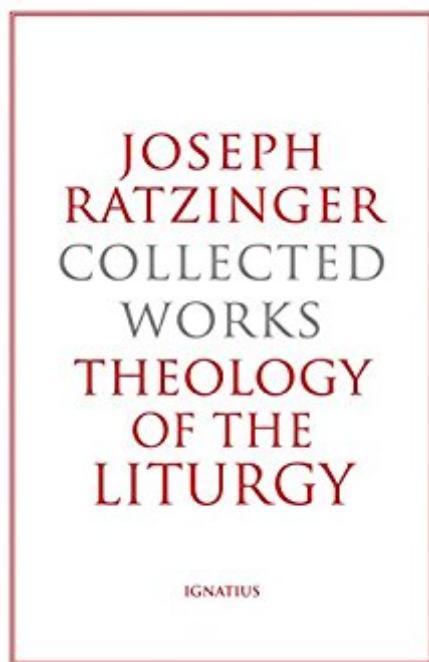


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Joseph Ratzinger Collected Works: Theology Of The Liturgy



Synopsis

This major volume is a collection of the writings of Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) on the theology of the Liturgy of the Church, a subject of preeminence to him as a theologian, professor and spiritual writer. It brings together all his writings on the subject, short and long, giving his views on liturgical matters and questions over many years and from various perspectives. He chose to have his writings on the Liturgy for the first volume published of his collected works (though listed as vol. 11) because, as he says in the Introduction: "The liturgy of the Church has been for me since my childhood the central reality of my life, and it became the center of my theological efforts. I chose fundamental theology as my field because I wanted first and foremost to examine thoroughly the question: Why do we believe? But also included from the beginning in this question was the other question of the right response to God and, thus, the question of the liturgy." By starting with the theme of liturgy in this volume, Ratzinger wants to highlight God's primacy, the absolute precedence of the theme of God. Beginning with a focus on the liturgy, he said, tells us that "God is first". He quotes from the Rule of St. Benedict, "Nothing is to be preferred to the liturgy", as a way of ordering priorities for the life of the Church and of every individual. He says that the fundamental question of the man who begins to understand himself correctly is: How must I encounter God? Thus learning the right way of worshipping is the gift par excellence that is given to us by the faith. The essential purpose of his writings on the liturgy is to place the liturgy in its larger context, which he presents in three concentric circles. First, the intrinsic interrelationship of Old and New Testament; without the connection to the Old Testament heritage, the Christian liturgy is incomprehensible. The second circle is the relationship to the religions of the world. The third circle is the cosmic character of the liturgy, which is more than the coming together of a circle of people: the liturgy is celebrated in the expanse of the cosmos, encompassing creation and history at the same time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first shipment is arriving now and alas, there are pages printed out of order, beginning with what should be page 528. This is an absolutely unacceptable printing error and no one should order until Ignatius Press corrects this. I will update the rating when this is corrected, since otherwise, obviously, this is a five-star publication. UPDATE 7/26/14: As long as you order from Ignatius directly (which will be slightly more inconvenient and expensive) you'll get the corrected version. I don't trust to have the problem corrected in their stock (seems one reviewer below got sent a defective copy twice), but perhaps they do. Ignatius certainly does, so go there for the time being. I'm updating my review to 5 Stars--a beautiful edition. One dreams of the day when one can review all sixteen volumes as they sit prominently placed in one's personal library. Profound thanks to Fr. Fessio and all in any way responsible for bringing the Ratzinger Werke to English.

Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, writes with great spiritual wisdom. Any of his published writing is well worth reading, learning from, and taking to heart.

Pope Benedict XVI's love and understanding of the liturgy is on full display in this volume. Since this is entitled Volume II of his collected works, you finish with a deep desire to get a hold of Volume I and all the others in the series.

I already know that it's a great book because it has all the liturgical works of Ratzinger. I did have to send two copies back to because of mistakes in pagination as has been noted by others. This time

I have to go with Ignatius Press-nothing against .

Ratzinger's insight is captivating. Excellent reference for anyone interested in Liturgy and its meaning

I just received my copy and the page numberings are correct. From page 526 to page 614, all are in proper order. The problem seems to have been solved.

My copy has the page printing errors corrected and so awaits years of admiration and contemplation in my hands.

Ratzinger does not disappoint. He is truly a scholar who can explain without overwhelming. Love this book. Ratzinger explains the history and theology of the Liturgy explaining vocabulary, art, music, used to please God.

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