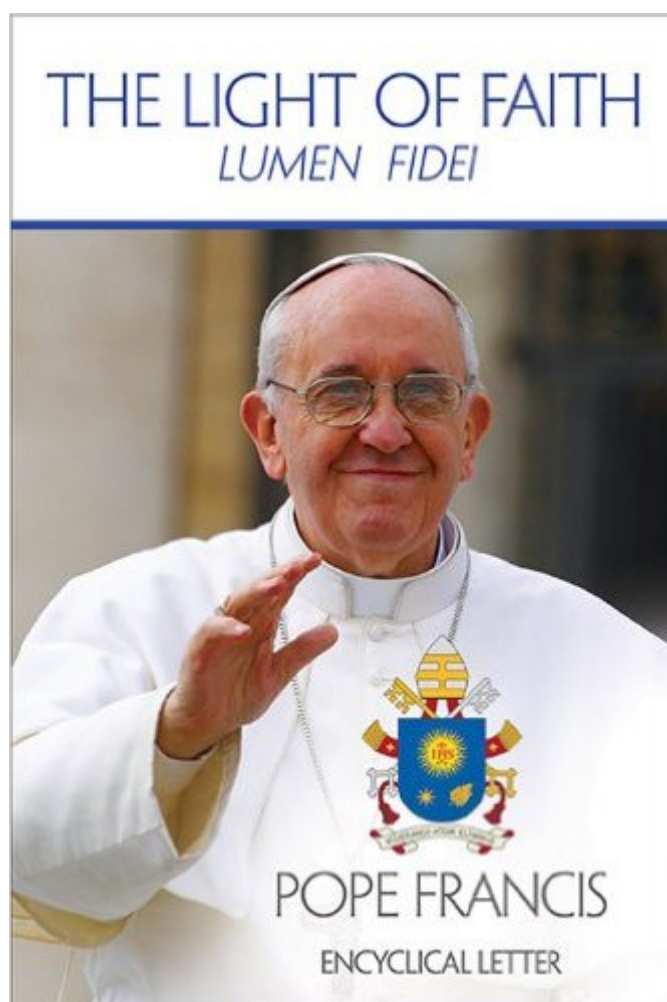


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The Light Of Faith (Lumen Fidei)



Synopsis

The first encyclical from Pope Francis, a continuation of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical letters on charity and hope, addresses the gift of faith that God has extended to us and how the light of faith needs to be nurtured and reinforced so that it can guide us on our collective and individual faith journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In his first encyclical as the Pope, Francis explores the meaning of religious faith and also Christian faith in a secular and largely unbelieving world. In reality the encyclical is a completion of Pope Benedict's trinity of encyclicals dealing with the classical theological virtues, charity (love), hope and faith. Benedict was unable to complete the final one on faith due to his resignation and retirement from the papal office in 2013. Francis admits in the encyclical it is the work of 'two hands', his own and Benedict's. He also manages to show that he is a considerable thinker in his own right, despite his reputation for simply giving off-cuff sound bites in media interviews and unprepared addresses. In this encyclical the new Pope argues faith is not (contra Dawkins and new atheism, though not mentioned) a kind of wishful thinking that reality would be better, or some kind of mental illness akin to belief that fairies and ghosts exist or you are being monitored by the CIA. It is an authentic and genuine response to the invitation of a personal and loving God and also the path to ultimate flourishing. The more intricate theological parts of the letter clearly come from the hand of Benedict, and overall the style and tone of the letter differ from the later encyclical of Francis, 'The Joy of the

Gospel.' While John Paul II seemed most concerned to restore Catholic orthodoxy (right belief) and Benedict wanted a revitalised liturgy that reflected a deeply contemplative theology (as his name Benedict suggested), Francis seems more concerned with the questions of proclamation and evangelisation.

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