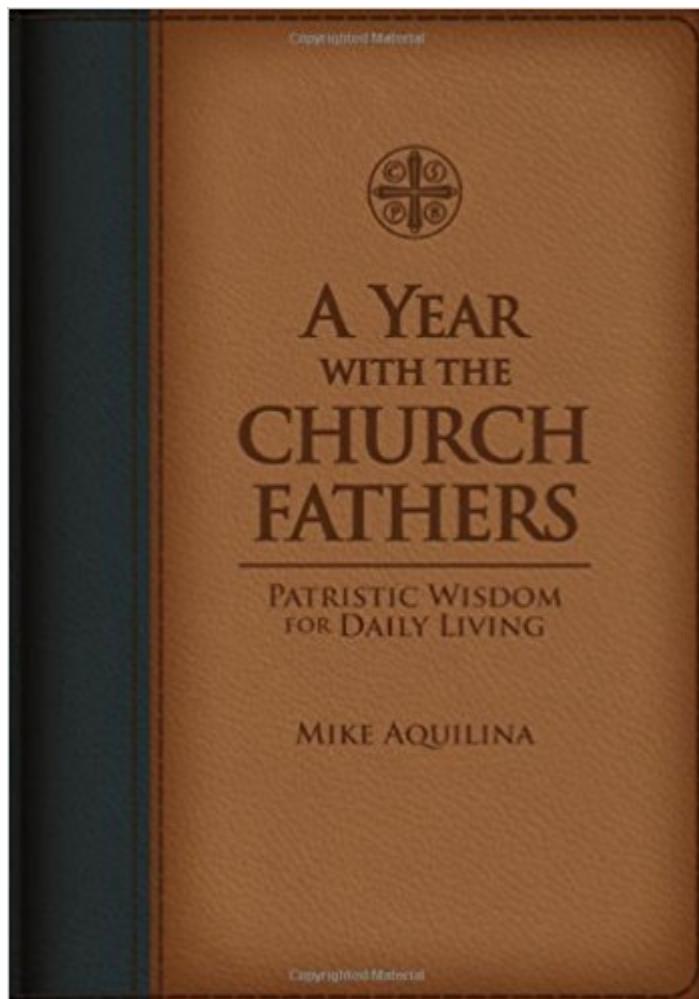


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# A Year With The Church Fathers



## Synopsis

National Catholic Register Saturday Book Pick: Mike Aquilina's A Year With the Church Fathers (June 4, 2011) Times change, but human nature does not. Neither do the daily struggles that all Christians experience in their walk with the Lord. Today as two thousand years ago we fight anger, pride, lust, spiritual sloth. Now as then we strive to be more diligent in prayer, more faithful to the commandments, more patient and charitable toward others. And in our time, no less than in the earliest centuries of Christianity, we need wise guidance to direct us on the road to holiness. In *A Year with the Church Fathers*, popular Patristics expert Mike Aquilina gathers the wisest, most practical teachings and exhortations from the Fathers of the Church, and presents them in a format perfect for daily meditation and inspiration. The Fathers were the immediate inheritors of the riches of the Apostolic Age, and their intimacy with the revelation of Jesus Christ is beautifully evident throughout their theological and pastoral writings: a profound patrimony that is ours to read and cherish and profit from. Learn to humbly accept correction from St. Clement of Rome. Let Tertullian teach you how to clear your mind before prayer. Read St. Gregory the Great and deepen your love for the Eucharist. Do you suffer from pain or illness? St. John Chrysostom's counsels will refresh you. Do you have trouble curbing your appetite for food and other fleshly things? St. John Cassian will teach you the true way to moderation and self-control. *A Year with the Church Fathers* is different from a study guide, and more than a collection of pious passages. It is a year-long retreat that in just a few minutes every day will lead you on a cycle of contemplation, prayer, resolution, and spiritual growth that is guaranteed to bring you closer to God and His truth. From the Church Fathers we should expect nothing less. Beautiful gift edition, with two- tone ultra soft cover, ribbon marker, and designed interior pages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You've probably seen some advertisements for this book around the internet and in print. St. Benedict Press and Mike Aquilina have done a great job with this daily devotional. I was just telling someone yesterday that I don't have much "need" for modern yet-to-be-approved private revelations because I haven't learned all I can from approved sources. The Church Fathers are one of those and this book is a great introduction to them. Let's first of all judge it by the cover, which we are told never to do. We have here a very beautiful rendition of the highly flexible, soft, leather-feel, DuoTone/Ultrasoft material. It is comfortable to hold and the two-tone cover is a nice touch. If this were a Bible I would prefer a solid color. I don't know if this was intentional or not but the book has a near-semi-yapp cover on it. There is certainly a generous over hang. Intentional or not, it will help keep the guilt edges from getting marked up. The embossing on the cover is great as usual with S.B. Press. You can see above there is a topic for the day, a short explanation, an excerpt from a Church Father, a short meditation, and a closing prayer. This may be a good way to begin the practice of mental prayer for ordinary Catholics. Not having read the whole thing yet, I can't vouch for all of the text but Mr. Aquilina is a well known and trusted apologist. I have his book "The Mass of the Early Christians" and enjoyed it. --Absolutely No Spin Blogspot

Immerse yourself in the wisest, most practical teachings and exhortations from the Fathers of the Church, presented in a format perfect for daily meditation and inspiration! Learn from St. Clement of Rome how to accept correction. Let Tertullian teach you about prayer. Read St. Gregory the Great and deepen your love for the Eucharist. Follow St. John Cassian on the way to true moderation and self-control. St. John Crysostom's counsels will refresh you from pain and illness, and St. Augustine will keep your mind from straying during prayer. A Year with the Church Fathers leads you through a daily retreat of contemplation, prayer, resolution and spiritual growth that makes the wisdom of the Fathers accessible like never before. Profoundly moving and inspiring! Guaranteed to bring you close to God and His truth.

A Year with the Church Fathers - Patristic Wisdom for Daily Living, brings to us a sample of the

early writings of the Church Fathers whose faith, and truths are shared with us in simple daily reflections, which we can draw upon. For example: To my surprise, I gave a talk on Saint Moses, a monk in the Forth century, who was a thief, robber and murderer, but who when attacking a monastery met an abbot who was meek and mild and influenced him. St Moses eventually converted to the Coptic Church, then a branch of the Catholic Church, and though it was not an easy conversion, confessed his sins, became a monk, and through his leadership, converted many to the faith. In the book, on Day Two, I found this passage, after I returned home from the retreat, under the title, "SEE GOD EVERYWHERE", "St. John Cassian remembers how the wise old abbot Moses told him to see God everywhere. If you approach with a pure heart, the world around you will show you His face." There follows a fuller explanation on this theme, and at the end, a consideration, and closing prayer to reflect upon. Just enough to wet the appetite of the spiritual soul, and find wisdom for the day. I highly recommend this book. The leather cover, and ribbon, makes it a handsome book, and a years worth of wisdom, to enrich everyone, of all faiths, or those who seek the Truths passed down through the ages from Christ. Pax et Bonum

I love this book. My favorite thing to read each day is the second reading in the Office of Readings. There is so much catechesis on Church teaching packed in those readings. Well, Mike gives us the same. Who better to teach us about the truths of the Faith than the Church Fathers? It's daily retreat into the mind and heart of the Church and into what God wants us to consider, then live. It's a dynamite combination: The Church Fathers' teachings, mediation on those teachings, then conversation with God. Another great book from Mike.

Mike Aquilina has written several books on the Fathers of the Church. *A Year With the Church Fathers--Patristic Wisdom For Daily Living*, is an artistically beautiful book, with a reading from one of the Fathers for every day of the year. These are fairly brief meditations followed by one or two focus questions and a closing prayer. Knowing of Aquilina's work I had high expectations for this book and it more than fulfilled my expectations. If you want to get a feeling for the writings of the Fathers without having to work through a book of each of the Fathers, well this is the book for you.

Excellent for daily readings with The Early Church Fathers! Very short pages and lots of spiritual directions from the greats like Basil, Athanasius, Augustine, etc.... Get to know your Faith! Get to know Christ's Church!

I love this book. I love the LOOK of it, first of all. It looks sort of like leather and has a nice gold ribbon to keep my place. It looks like a SUBSTANTIAL book. But, you can't judge a book....well, you know the rest. The daily devotions build on one another, to make us aware of God in our world through our own observation and with the help of the church Doctors. Very gratifying read each day. It was a big investment for me, a bit pricey, but I don't regret it. If it was cheaper, I'd have given it 5 stars.

Wonderful prayer book for Lent!!!

Every day I sit quietly with this book and read the day's small page. Then I sit again with the questions at the bottom, sometimes I can't answer them but it does give me "food for thought" during the evening. The closing prayer is helpful and seems to put my thoughts at ease and into a quietness. I enjoy this book and the fact that the Church Fathers are coming to me with the writings are like they are with me as I read. It's a good ending to my prayer time.

I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a spiritual start to their day. It has broadened my Catholic Christian outlook immensely with little kernels of wisdom.

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