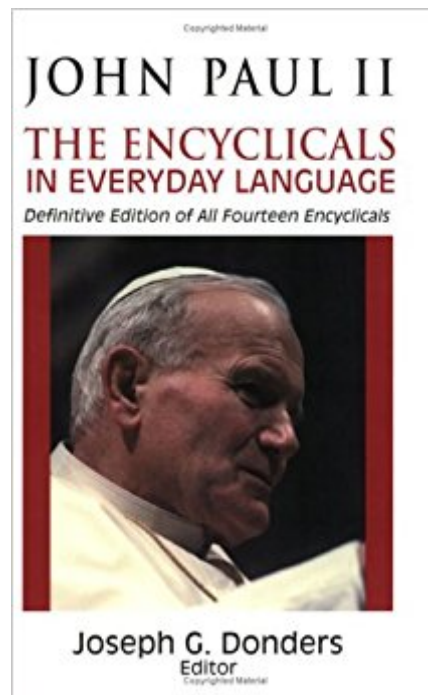




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# John Paul 2: The Encyclicals In Everyday Language, Definitive Edition Of All Fourteen Encyclicals



## Synopsis

Father Donders has brought together all 12 of Pope John Paul II's encyclicals in the first complete edition designed with the ordinary lay reader in mind. Father Donders puts the central message of each passage in sense lines that display the core of each text in an abbreviated format. This enablesthe reader to grasp the Pope's meaning easily.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A great idea, brilliantly edited...the clearest and most readable way that anyone will encounter of presenting the encyclicals of this extraordinary Pope."

Joseph G. Donders, is professor emeritus of mission and cross-cultural studies at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC. Having served for many years in Africa, Donders continues to lecture and teach worldwide.

I felt so very Blessed to be able to read our most Blessed Saint John Paul II's Encyclicals, in a way I could comprehend and understand. I always use to go to the Vatican Website and read the Encyclicals, but I felt at times they where over my head with the wording, even though you could still feel the beauty in them.This is a treasure of a book to own and everyone, for your own Spiritual Growth should strive to get one,

John Paul II stood across the last quarter of the twentieth century like a Colossus. His intellect was formed in modern and scholastic philosophy. The larger corpus of his thought and output consisted of many speeches, sermons, letters, interviews, etc. In the top tier of his output stand his encyclicals. In Roman Catholic tradition, encyclicals are letters from the Bishop of Rome to other bishops, to the church and to the world. Encyclicals contain teachings accepted as true and are given great deference among Catholics. Unfortunately, much of the wisdom contained in encyclicals comes wrapped in centuries' old manners of communication, much of which are foreign to today's ear. Father Joseph Donders has provided a service to Catholics and others by rendering all of John Paul II's encyclicals into language more accessible to modern readers who are not professional theologians. Donders points out, appropriately, that the first source always are the original encyclicals; Donders recommends having the original encyclical alongside his "translation." To enhance using this book as a reference, Donders prepared a short Epilogue which traces some of the threads that run through the encyclicals. This makes it possible to trace the development of certain of John Paul's thought over time. This is aided also by an index of main terms and themes found in the encyclicals.

Excellent read; loved the format. .

Nice to have this .

as advertised

If you love JP II, all his encyclicals are here in language everyone can understand. It may not be strictly loyal to the original, but it is important that his message gets through.

Now that Pope Francis has issued his encyclical *Laudato Si -- On Care for Our Common Home*, it is well to review this book. Until the present day, many Church documents, even in their vernacular translations, have been in language inaccessible to the average reader. (*Laudato Si*, on the other hand, is not likely to receive the treatment that this book provides--it's already in everyday language!) The Preface of this book asserts that the first encyclical (*Vix pervenit*, on usury) appeared in 1745. (Two hundred seventy years later, is it time for an encyclical on payday loans?) However, other sources give that designation to *Ubi primum* (1740). Using astute editing, succinct non-convoluted phrases and sentences, and a detailed, useful index, this book neatly encapsulates

most significant points. Words such as eclecticism, hermeneutics, fideism, ontologism, etc. are briefly yet clearly explained or defined. One would wish for a library of everyday-language renditions of at least the most significant encyclicals of all the popes. Admittedly unofficial and unscholarly versions could have more impact for the average reader.

This is a great book to have on hand. Pope John Paul's set of encyclicals compromise a modern, comprehensive presentation of Catholic theology. Father Donders makes these writings available to the more casual reader. Reading these encyclicals is a great way to reflect on the great pontificate of Pope John Paul II. Highly recommended.

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