

# Praise for James Kroeger and *A Joyful Journey with* POPE FRANCIS

“These succinct popularizations introduce us to the engaging vision of Pope Francis in summary form.... Hopefully, as you peruse these materials, you will discover that they are ‘appetizers’ for the full writings of Pope Francis. May you also discover the vibrant ‘missionary spirit’ of Pope Francis: ‘Let us be realists, without losing our joy, our boldness, and our hope-filled commitment.’”

—CARDINAL LUIS ANTONIO TAGLE, PRO-PREFECT:  
VATICAN DICASTERY OF EVANGELIZATION



“James Kroeger provides a wonderful avenue for ‘Catholics in the pews’ (and others) to access the inspiring thought and vision of Pope Francis. In his synthesis of twelve major documents, Kroeger has faithfully captured the main points and phrases in this shortened and accessible format. We thank him for opening up the treasures of Pope Francis for a broader audience.”

—ROGER SCHROEDER, SVD, CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL UNION, CHICAGO



“James Kroeger has compiled a treasure trove of deeply meaningful and timely reflections on twelve writings from Pope Francis. These prophetic documents speak to important issues of our day and challenge us to respond with love and action.”

—DIANE LAMPITT, M.ED., SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR,  
CREATINGSOULSPACE.ORG

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“A dozen pearls of wisdom for a dozen years of papal ministry! As Pope Francis compassionately continues guiding the People of God, this book recaps a dozen of his significant documents—an ideal way to again touch into his gifted wisdom and devoted fidelity. We have been privileged to be the recipients of a wealth of guidance—comfort and challenge—in Pope Francis’ many and diverse writings. What a treasure this short compilation is—giving us reminders, recaps, summaries, and digests—when we might not have the time to delve deeply into each document. With its Reflection Questions and Prayer Prompts, this book is ideal for personal prayer and reflection, small faith-sharing groups, retreats, and parish adult faith formation.”

—JANET SCHAEFFLER, OP, RETREAT/WORKSHOP  
PRESENTER; AUTHOR



“Before starting a road trip, especially one of any substance or length, we usually consult a map to get a bird’s eye view of the starting point, destination, and points of interest along the way. Thus prepared, we travel with more confidence, anticipation, and orientation to our journey’s end.

In *A Joyful Journey with Pope Francis*, Fr. Kroeger has given us road maps for twelve of Francis’ most essential writings. These chapters are worthy and helpful companions for anyone who wants to engage with these groundbreaking exhortations and letters. If you have already read *Laudato Si* or *Amoris Laetitia*, these will help you organize and retain their teaching. If not, they will whet your appetite and encourage you to begin.”

—TOM GOOD, PASTORAL MUSICIAN AND RESIDENT OFFICER,  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATION BOARD (RETIRED)

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“*A Joyful Journey with Pope Francis* packs an abundance of wisdom, insight, and powerful quotes from Pope Francis. It brilliantly synthesizes the Pope’s deep and expansive thinking, as it clearly articulates the radical nature of the message of Christ and Francis’ pontificate. A big treasure in a small package.”

—GERARD THOMAS STRAUB, AUTHOR OF *READING THOMAS MERTON AND LONGING FOR GOD IN HAITI* (GERARDSTRAUB.COM)



“Twelve years ago, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a largely unknown Jesuit and Argentinian archbishop became Pope Francis, the 266th pope in the Catholic Church. Francis immediately became known for his humility, compassion, simplicity of lifestyle, and concern for the environment, just like his namesake, Francis of Assisi, the mystical saint known for joy, love, and passion for creation. Pope Francis has already left a legacy of inspiring documents that articulate his unique vision of the critically needed gifts the Catholic tradition offers to this challenging moment of the 21st century.

Fr. James Kroeger, MM, has summarized in a clear and concise manner the twelve key documents of Francis pontificate, making these foundational insights that will shape Catholicism for decades easily accessible to anyone. Here is a great chance to wade more deeply into the heart and mind of the mystical pope who has energized the Church and challenged it to think of itself not as a museum of religious ideas, perspectives, and images, but a “field hospital” that is prepared to serve the world by alleviating suffering and bringing a Gospel Joy to a troubled human condition.

—MARK S. MARKULY, PH.D., DEAN EMERITUS OF THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY