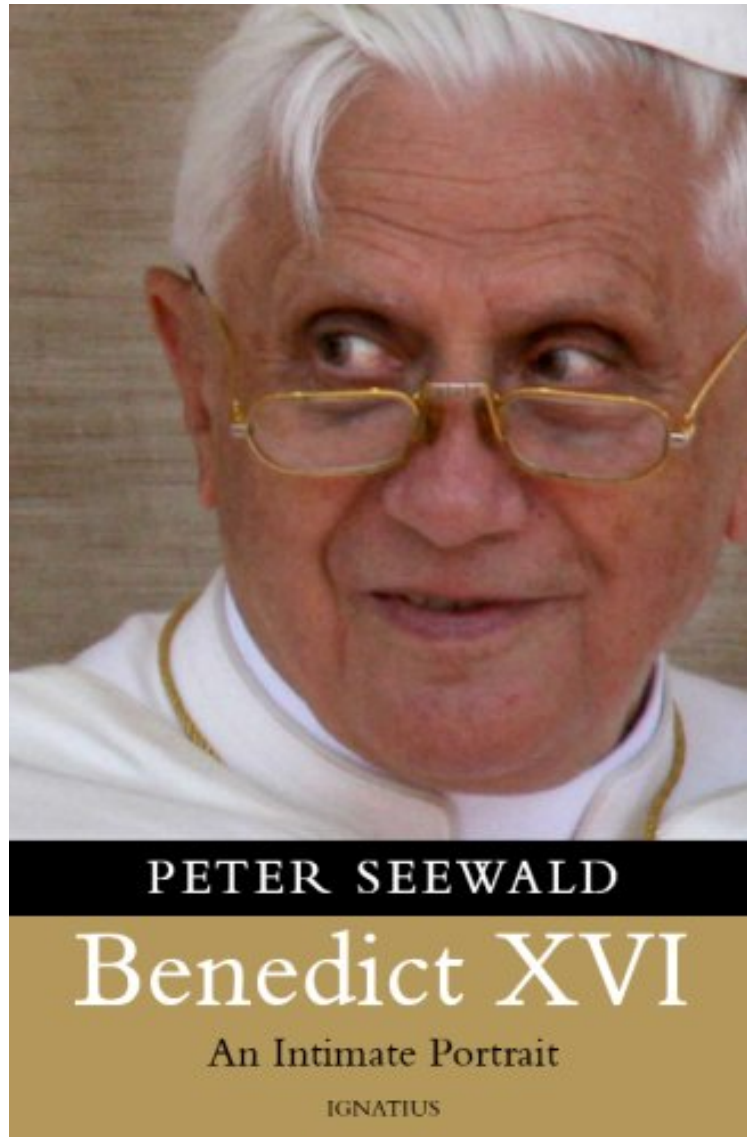


(Read free) Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait

Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait

Peter Seewald

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Peter Seewald : Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Best Benedict Biography By Robert D. Bellamy Three and a half years into Pope Benedict XVI's reign as the Vicar of Christ, this is exactly the type of biography that should be coming out. After the flurry of hastily prepared books (some quality, some not), Seewald gives us a thoughtful, in-depth portrait of the pontiff. Seewald, of course, was the impetus behind Salt of the Earth and God of the World, two

important books written in conjunction with the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. This book offers a glimpse into the process of Seewald's introduction into the world of Ratzinger and his subsequent reconversion back into the Church. Seewald tells of his commission in 1993 to write an article on the oft-misunderstood "Panzerkardinal" and in what I think is the most interesting part of this book, recounts some of the interviews he conducted in preparation for that story. Interviewees include those supportive of the Cardinal (including his own brother, Georg) and those who resent the Cardinal (like Hans Knigge). In his interviews, Seewald says that he came away with a dual view of the Cardinal. Eventually, Seewald gets to interview Cardinal Ratzinger himself for the two books, and he recounts the travails involved in this process. In addition, Seewald credits Ratzinger for his move from an atheist-Communist-apostate to reentry into full communion with the Church. In this sense, it is as much Seewald's story as it is Ratzinger/Pope Benedict's, but God as he works through Pope Benedict exists at the center of the work. While not as detailed as Brennan Purcell's *Benedict of Bavaria* with regard to Ratzinger's childhood experiences, I found these sections to be sufficient and appropriate given the goals of the book. One is given an overall impression of Ratzinger's life from childhood, through his appointment to as the Cardinal Archbishop of Munich, to the sometimes-shackling position as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Throughout, Benedict's great intellect and humility shine forth as perhaps his defining qualities. Overall, this is the best biography of Benedict I have read and I greatly appreciate Mr. Seewald's work. I recommend it to anyone who wants to gain knowledge about perhaps the most important man of this age.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding book and writers - both Pope Benedict and Peter Seewald

By Ayman I. Sayegh

Well written, well thought, easy to read and follow book full of stories and inspiring text for both Catholics and non Catholics alike.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By hairincorporated

Excellent

In the person of Pope Benedict XVI, one of the most significant of Europe's intellectuals is heading-up the Vatican. The journalist Peter Seewald, who has known Ratzinger since 1992, conducted the "longest interviews in church history" with him, for two books which were best-sellers world-wide, *Salt of the Earth*, *God and the World*. Now he describes these intensive encounters in detail for the first time, and draws a portrait of this brilliant theologian who has put his life entirely at the service of the Catholic Church. Above and beyond that, this book is also the story of a long dialogue which changed Seewald's life. Many people are trying to understand who Benedict XVI really is. On one point they are all agreed: in the person of Joseph Ratzinger, the chair of Peter is occupied by one of the most brilliant minds in the world. Peter Seewald's portrait of Benedict recounts details about the personality and life of Benedict which were hitherto completely unknown.