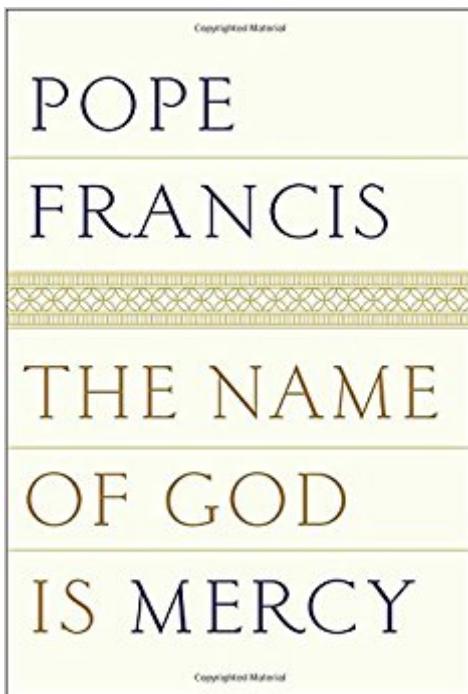


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# The Name Of God Is Mercy



## Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  In his first book published as Pope, and in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis here invites all humanity to an intimate and personal dialogue on the subject closest to his heart mercy which has long been the cornerstone of his faith and is now the central teaching of his papacy. In this conversation with Vatican reporter Andrea Tornielli, Francis explains through memories from his youth and moving anecdotes from his experiences as a pastor why  mercy is the first attribute of God. God  does not want anyone to be lost. His mercy is infinitely greater than our sins, he writes. As well, the Church cannot close the door on anyone, Francis asserts on the contrary, its duty is to go out into the world to find its way into the consciousness of people so that they can assume responsibility for, and move away from, the bad things they have done. The first Jesuit and the first South American to be elected Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis has traveled around the world spreading Gods message of mercy to the largest crowds in papal history. Clear and profound, *The Name of God Is Mercy* resonates with this desire to reach all those who are looking for meaning in life, a road to peace and reconciliation, and the healing of physical and spiritual wounds. It is being published in more than eighty countries around the world. The name of God is mercy. There are no situations we cannot get out of, we are not condemned to sink into quicksand.Pope Francis Praise for *The Name of God Is Mercy* Francis speaks succinctly and with refreshing forthrightness. . . . He emphasizes moral sincerity over dogma, an understanding of the complexities of the world and individual experience over rigid doctrine. . . . The pope has an easy conversational style that moves effortlessly between folksy sayings and erudite allusions, between common-sense logic and impassioned philosophical insights. Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* What makes his book most moving is the way in which this man, without disrespecting his own privacy or offering false bromides of modesty, opens the sacred space of his conscience to explain how he came to center his ministry, and now his papacy, around mercy. James Carroll, *The New Yorker* As he has done throughout his papacy, Pope Francis shows in this book a compelling way to present Gods love anew to a skeptical world without denying the ancient teachings of faith. But now he is challenging the entire Church to trek a new way forward. Time Francis enjoys sharing personal stories of Gods grace and mercy in the lives of parishioners from his native Argentina, people he has known and who have recognized themselves as sinners. The Washington Post Powerful . . . Franciss book signals a plea for a change of

attitude on the part of the faithful and their pastors. . . . Bishops and priests will talk and quarrel over the text for months, even years to come. And that, perhaps, is what Francis intends. *Financial Times* “Deepens his calls for a more merciful Catholic Church . . . The question-and-answer book is told in simple, breezy language, with the pope referring to experiences and people in his own life.” *Newsday* “Francis has offered his most detailed outline yet for the role of the Catholic church in the modern era.” *National Catholic Reporter* Translated by Oonagh Stransky

## Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Random House; Tra edition (January 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399588639

ISBN-13: 978-0399588631

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.7 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 505 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,692 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Leadership #28 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Social Issues #61 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Catholicism

## Customer Reviews

“In The Name of God Is Mercy, Francis speaks succinctly and with refreshing forthrightness. . . . He emphasizes moral sincerity over dogma, an understanding of the complexities of the world and individual experience over rigid doctrine. . . . The pope has an easy conversational style that moves effortlessly between folksy sayings and erudite allusions, between common-sense logic and impassioned philosophical insights.” Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “A book on mercy might be expected to be a warm bath in kindness, all sweetness and light, but Pope Francis, in *The Name of God Is Mercy*, offers a tough-minded reflection on an urgently needed public virtue, together with firm, if kindly, pushback against his critics. . . . What makes his book most moving is the way in which this man, without disrespecting his own privacy or offering false bromides of modesty, opens the sacred space of his conscience to explain how he came to center his ministry, and now his papacy, around mercy. . . . His new book

comes out toward the start of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which he inaugurated in December, in a centuries-old ritual, by unlocking the ceremonial Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. The Church of which Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope, nearly three years ago, was itself a locked door. As Francis, he has, exactly, found a tiny opening. He is pushing, and, to universal surprise, the door is beginning to swing open.

James Carroll, *The New Yorker* “As he has done throughout his papacy, Pope Francis shows in this book a compelling way to present God’s love anew to a skeptical world without denying the ancient teachings of faith. But now he is challenging the entire Church to trek a new way forward. Francis wants us to focus our energy on the 99% who need to experience once more the greatest realities of our faith.”

John Paul II’s 1994 book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. . . . But while John Paul II relied on Gospel passages, theological scholars and past papal pronouncements, Francis enjoys sharing personal stories of God’s grace and mercy in the lives of parishioners from his native Argentina, people he has known and who have recognized themselves as sinners.

The Washington Post “Powerful . . . Francis’ book signals a plea for a change of attitude on the part of the faithful and their pastors. . . . Bishops and priests will talk and quarrel over the text for months, even years to come. And that, perhaps, is what Francis intends: a disruption of the status quo; a call for open-ended discussion about conscience, and sin, based on new priorities. He has started the conversation by setting compassion for the poor, oppressed and deprived of the world above casuistic rule-keeping.”

Financial Times “Pope Francis lays out his case for emphasizing the merciful face of the Catholic Church in his first book as pontiff, saying God never tires of forgiving and actually prefers the sinners who repent over self-righteous moralizers who don’t.”

Associated Press “[Pope Francis] deepens his calls for a more merciful Catholic Church. . . . The question-and-answer book is told in simple, breezy language, with the pope referring to experiences and people in his own life including a niece and prisoners he has visited.”

Newsday “Pope Francis has offered his most detailed outline yet for the role of the Catholic church in the modern era, saying in a new book-length interview the church needs to follow Jesus’ example more closely. . . .

At times I have surprised myself by thinking that a few very rigid people would do well to slip a little, so that they could remember that they are sinners and thus meet Jesus,” Francis states.

National Catholic Reporter

Pope Francis Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires on December 17, 1936. On March 13, 2013, he became the Bishop of Rome and the 266th Pope of the Catholic Church. On March 13, 2015, he announced his Holy Year of Mercy, which will begin on December 8, 2015, and end on November 20, 2016. Andrea Tornielli is a veteran Vatican reporter, correspondent for *La Stampa*, and director of the *Vatican Insider* website. He also writes for a variety of Italian and international magazines. His publications include the first biography of the Pope, *Francis: Pope of a New World*, which was translated into sixteen languages, and *This Economy Kills: Pope Francis on Capitalism and Social Justice*, which was translated into nine languages.

This book is a conversation between Pope Francis and a Vatican reporter Andrea Tornielli about mercy and forgiveness. There is much here to dwell on and consider as human beings living in a global society that appears to be indifferent to the poor and marginalized in the world today. I don't believe that you need to be a Roman Catholic or Christian to find value in these words nor do you necessarily need to think of yourself as religious but I do think you need to be a human being capable of feeling your humanity. Possibly another way of explaining it would whether you are a spiritual person where that spirituality enables you to feel beyond yourself. Francis talks about the need to find one's maternal side that is capable of nourishing another. Here, I believe, he is talking about an institution such as the Church or any Government as well as the individual who through grace can recognize evil or sin and through 'Mercy' healing can occur and we can become whole through forgiveness. It is a short book but I know that it is one that I will read more than once since there is so much to understand. Quoting Francis: "I will say this: mercy is real; it is the first attribute of God. Theological reflections on doctrine or mercy may then follow, but let us not forget that mercy is doctrine. Even so, I love saying: mercy is true." Francis concludes this book with "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone".

Aspects of our current national and even international mood (whether in the church, in society, or in political debates) seem anything but merciful. harsh, anxious, divisive, name-calling, fear-mongering but not merciful. Thus, the Pope's reminder is urgent. We walk with the God who is "merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6). The first word, "merciful," bears the same Hebrew root as the word "womb." The relationship is striking. Like a womb, to be merciful is to create a safe place in which life can be nourished. As the Psalmist continually reminds us, God is

our strong tower, our defense, the One who stoops down and rescues us from the pit. Also like a womb, mercy involves sacrifice, hospitality, discomfort, and even risk. Jesus stooped down and took the risk, so to speak, of bearing our wounded human flesh. He carried it into his own *“womb of mercy”* where it could be healed, redeemed, and recreated. His cries on the Cross were like labor pains, and in the resurrection, he gave birth to new humanity.

A series of the same words in 20+ different languages in Pope Francis' own handwriting opens this book. All the phrases simply mean: "The Name of God is mercy!", "El nombre de Dios es misericordia!", and on and on. In disarmingly down-to-earth phrases, words and examples, Pope Francis movingly demonstrates how simple mercy, human kindness and forgiveness are at the very heart of the message of Jesus. Consequently, they must be demonstrably the transforming Good News the Church proclaims and lives in honoring and respecting the dignity of every person and all creation. In this way, all things - and our world! - can truly become new. This book is moving, profound and yet readily accessible to and potentially transformative for everyone who reads it irrespective of their particular religious faith or lack thereof. It certainly was a blessing to me and powerfully ushers in the Jubilee Year of Mercy!

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope." ~ Pope Francis "The Name of God is Mercy" is a short book containing an interview with Pope Francis about mercy, compassion and forgiveness. There is also a letter at the end if you want a more in depth look at mercy. I found this book to be inspirational and a beautiful warm loving message of hope. Pope Francis believes that the message of mercy is Jesus' most important message to humanity. He also talks about sin as a wound, not a stain on our souls. I felt Pope Francis presents a wise and encouraging message about not judging other people. That is what Jesus taught too. Pope Francis seems to have a sensitivity to the condition of the human soul and I came away from this book realizing the wonder of God's forgiveness. I also felt this book was a plea to Christians as he says: "Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world..." The message is profound and I feel this book will open hearts and inspire people to return to God the Father. There is a brief mention of praying to Mary and praying for the dead. I do not know enough information about these practices to comment on them. Otherwise this book seems written for all Christians, not just Catholics. ~The Rebecca Review

The Pope is very appealing to me. His words, his attitude, everything he conveys is fresh these days. I enjoyed this book, which allowed his voice to be heard in a slightly different way. It got a little preachy at times, but for the most part seemed to be a continuation of the bold statements (for the Catholic church!) he makes with welcome frequency. Here's what I didn't like: the interview style of the book. Actually, it isn't the style so much as the fawning, idiotic tone of the fake interviewer. Wow. I started talking back to the interviewer after the first chapter! Pope Francis does not need a preening, smug, and worshipful voice to introduce his thoughts on a range of topics. This was unexpected, as I thought this would be a book as presented on the cover, written by the Pope.

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