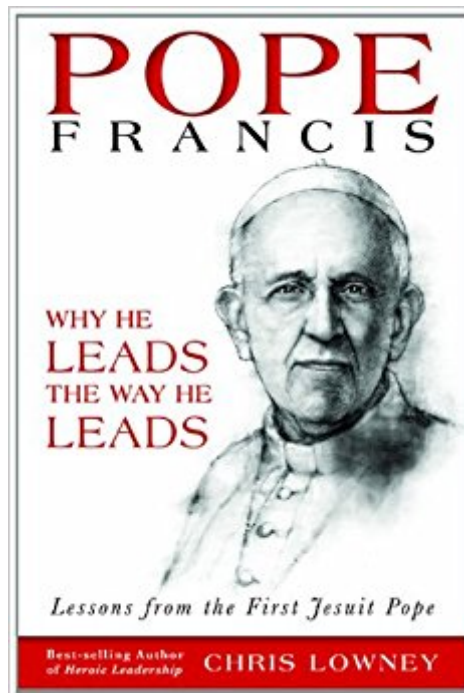




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# Pope Francis: Why He Leads The Way He Leads



## Synopsis

TIME Magazine's Person of the Year: Pope Francis Learn about the First Jesuit Pope from America's Leading Jesuit Publisher Pope Francis by Chris Lowney is that rare and splendid work that leaves you keenly excited and spiritually moved. The writing is lucid, vivid, inviting, and rich. It's a major achievement. I strongly recommend it to any Christian in a leadership role.

— Joseph Tetlow, SJ

From choosing to live in a simple apartment instead of the papal palace to washing the feet of men and women in a youth detention center, Pope Francis's actions contradict behaviors expected of a modern leader. Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit seminarian turned Managing Director for JP Morgan & Co., shows how the pope's words and deeds reveal spiritual principles that have prepared him to lead the Church and influence our world—a rapidly-changing world that requires leaders who value the human need for love, inspiration, and meaning. Drawing on interviews with people who knew him as Father Jorge Bergoglio, SJ, Lowney challenges assumptions about what it takes to be a great leader. In so doing, he reveals the other-centered leadership style of a man whose passion is to be with people rather than set apart. Lowney offers a stirring vision of leadership to which we can all aspire in our communities, churches, companies, and families.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Tapping into his own fascinating and unique background, Chris Lowney has written an important, powerful book that is full of paradox. It is both deeply philosophical and immensely practical. It is suited for those steeped in Catholic faith and those with no faith formation at all. It is timeless

and completely relevant for our modern age. "Whether you are fascinated by Pope Francis or in search of useful tools for transforming the organization you lead, this book is a prize."-- Patrick Lencioni; president, The Table Group; author of *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* and *The Advantage*"In our interconnected world where so many complain about a crisis of leadership, Chris Lowney presents the case of Pope Francis, a leader focused not on status but on mission. "This is a powerful book for leaders of all stripes, religious and non-believers alike, who recognize the need to cultivate character and the ability to hold competing values as we navigate change, whether in business, organizations or society itself. I highly recommend it."- Jacqueline Novogratz, Founder and CEO of Acumen Fund

"Pope Francis is a book for the ages; the lessons to be learned from the example of the humble servant called upon to be a World Leader are timeless in their truth and universal in their applicability to our daily lives."- Jeffrey Paravano, Managing Partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP

"Chris Lowney expands on his insightful work in *Heroic Leadership* with this case study of one of the world's most visible and influential leaders. "In *Pope Francis*, he draws practical lessons for all, of a life of spiritually grounded leadership that has captured his flock in Argentina, his peers in the College of Cardinals, and now the world."- Mel Speise

Major General USMC (Retired)Former Commanding General of Training and Education Command

"Lowney uses the life of Pope Francis to show us that the path to effective leadership begins in "leadership of self" and that the journey never ends. "His books form a collection that should be the foundation of any business leader's personal library."- Edward Speed, Retired CEO, TDEC

"Chris Lowney has again provided us with an invaluable gift by interpreting the principles of leadership within the Ignatian-Jesuit tradition. "Through this work, we can better understand the impact of Jesuit formation upon leadership style--and of the promise, hope, and love it can bring to our organizations, society, and world."- John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University

"For people of faith or no faith, Chris Lowney's *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads* is a timely introduction to the mind and heart of a pope who has defied expectations and charmed the world. "In a culture that has become skeptical of institutional leadership, Lowney offers hope and insight into what an inspiring leader can look like. "Drawing on themes from Pope Francis' (and his own) formation as a Jesuit, Lowney's accessible book invites each of us to reflect on our own obstacles to successful leadership. "This book is perfect for anyone interested in better serving their families, schools, businesses, and organizations."- Timothy R. Lannon, SJ

President, Creighton University

"Throughout my business career, I attributed my leadership preparedness to my Jesuit education. Chris Lowney aptly communicates the nuances of the Jesuit charism that inspires so many of us."- Michael R. Quinlan

Chariman Emeritus, McDonald's Corporation

Honorary Chairman,

Loyola University Chicago"Lowney's book was not only engaging; it upended my preconceptions. Here was someone who had not merely dipped his toes in the Ignatian tradition; he had swum in the ocean of it, then gone off to teach swimming in other pools."- Tim Muldoon, author of *The Ignatian Workout*"Lowney, author of the best-selling book *Heroic Leadership*, is eminently qualified to assess our dynamic new Pope's leadership style. As a former Jesuit seminarian, he understands St. Ignatius' spiritual exercises and their emphasis upon humility and service. As a businessman who has served as a managing director for J. P. Morgan on three continents, and as board chair of one of the nation's largest healthcare systems, he understands the menu of leadership styles from which leaders, even religious leaders, must choose.- Kathy Schiffer, *Seasons of Grace*"I have a master's degree in management and I've spent 18 years of my life holding a leadership position in the public sphere. I have never seen a better book on how a true leader gets people to follow him or her."- Rebecca Hamilton, 18-year member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives"A respectful examination that looks to both the past and the future, *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads* is inspirational from cover to cover."- James A. Cox, *The Midwest Book Review*

Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit seminarian, served as a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan & Co. on three continents. He currently chairs the board of Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the nation's largest healthcare systems. Author of the best-seller *Heroic Leadership*, he speaks widely on leadership and has been featured in *Forbes*, the *Harvard Business Review*, *Fast Company*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among others. Visit [chrislowney.com](http://chrislowney.com) to learn more.

Chris Lowney's book opens on page 2 with a disarming comment that sets the tone . . . "Some folks approach [leadership] opportunities knowing that they are superbly prepared to lead, and that unshakable self-confidence stays with them every day of their careers. We call such people narcissists. They often get their organizations into trouble because, blinded by the radiant glow of their self-perceived greatness, they don't see what havoc they create or what misery they inflict on others."Core fundamental values of leadership rather than the latest fads or trends drive the themes of this book. Lowney demonstrates how Pope Francis exemplifies these principles and the Jesuit leadership tradition that has developed over centuries. Using his unequivocally unique perspective as both a former Jesuit seminarian and investment banker, Lowney weaves the religious and the secular together -- for example tying the tradition of prayer to our human need for quiet reflection to collect our thoughts in a world filled with a cacophony of sound and distractions that tend to make us

reactive instead of proactive. I found myself going back and repeatedly underlining the insights in this book making sure to take notes as to what I have read so that I can, to put it bluntly, steal Lowney's lines for my next presentation to my colleagues or clients. Very few people have the perspective to put together such a plainly-spoken and effective book that draws upon a Catholic tradition and places at its center, Pope Francis, who has been and could still become a transformative historical figure. To be clear, Lowney expresses his frustration with his church and hopes that Francis can draw Catholics back and others in. If you do not read this book, you will lose an opportunity to gain insight from someone who writes not from the perspective of corporate titan or from that of an academic, but someone who has lived in very different parts of this world who draws his inspiration from a truly inspiring person.

Chris Lowney has done it again! The author of *Heroic Leadership* (2005) and *Heroic Living* (2010) now gives us *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*, and it may be the best of a fine trio. It's certainly the most topical. Francis' simple ways and his consistent words have captured the attention of people everywhere and not just Catholics. Obviously the world is hungry for moral leadership, and Francis is currently without peer in that department. Lowney is uniquely qualified to write about him for three reasons. First, having spent several years in Jesuit formation, he is an expert on the process that shaped Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J. from his earliest days and served as the arena in which he exercised much of his leadership before being elected pope. Second, Lowney is a seasoned student of the world, having spent 17 years with J.P. Morgan and served as a one of its managing partners on three continents. His work product is always relevant to people of all faiths and to those with no faith at all. Finally, he is fluent in Spanish, which gave him direct and immediate access to many Jesuits who studied and worked under the pope when he was the Jesuits' superior in Argentina and later served as archbishop of Buenos Aires. Thus, Lowney is able to paint an intimate and revealing portrait of a man whose humility, vision and love for the poor have captured the world's attention and much of its heart. Despite all the unique research that underlies the text, the book is a bright and lively read that's broken down into brief sections for the busy reader who can only devote a few minutes at a time to understanding what makes this pope tick. I'm grateful for having the opportunity to read it and I think you will be too.

In his book, *Management: Tasks, Responsibilities, Practices*, in Chapter 36, "The Spirit of

Performance," Peter F. Drucker states: The purpose of an organization is to enable common [people] to do uncommon things. This necessarily includes religious organizations. Yes, this too is necessarily about working towards a goal. Leadership is the quality, or maybe the art, possessed by certain individuals that makes them capable of doing this. They know where they are going. They have a very good idea of how to get there. They have a heuristic approach that keeps them goal focused in spite of obstacles. And, in contrast to the effects of narcissistic leadership which Lowney brings up, true leaders show us it's not about them, it's about the good they are looking to accomplish. Pope Francis is one of those individuals. Written by someone who was not only a success in investment banking at one of the big firms, he also knows what the heart of a Jesuit is supposed to be, having been one of their seminarians and outlined the leadership it took to guide their 450 year existence in his book:Â Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company That Changed the World. Glad that he chose to share his insights with us!

The new Pope acts more like a servant to a billion (Catholics) rather than an emperor to a billion. I was edified by the analysis of the Pope's leadership style through the lens of the author's Jesuit training and corporate experience. There are some very challenging standards here to live up to.

This is a clear, concise and easy to read analysis of the background that Pope Francis brings to his office and how it affects the way he conducts the office. It is a wonderful lay out for leadership in any organization, but particularly in a religious one. It plants the fundamentals of leadership deeply in the character of the leader, but it also shows how these roots results in certain styles of practice. I am using this book as a study text with the staff at our parish church. Reform begins with the reformers setting up right relationships with themselves, others, their God and the mission for which they are stewards. Lowney demonstrates this in the Jesuit roots of Pope Francis. The spiritual exercises are an outline for the exercise of good leadership, especially in the Catholic Church which is the home for the Jesuit tradition.

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