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## **Third Book by Pope Francis to Be Published by Loyola Press Focuses on Another Theme Dear to His Heart: Joy**

The third book by Pope Francis to be published by Loyola Press, the Chicago-based Jesuit publishing house, is a lively call to an active faith grounded in mercy, joy and love. In *The Joy of Discipleship: Reflections from Pope Francis on Walking with Christ* (Loyola Press, February 1, 2016), edited by theologian Jim Campbell, Pope Francis asks what it means for us today to be disciples of Jesus. “It means replacing malice with innocence, replacing power with love, replacing pride with humility, replacing status with service. It is good work!” he writes. “Being disciples...means...bearing witness by our lives that following Jesus makes us freer and more joyous.”

As he has made clear throughout his papacy, “The essential thing is mercy.” Pope Francis also illuminates the reality of Christian joy and love—essential aspects of the life of a believer:

- “Jesus has come to bring joy to all people for all time. It is not just a hopeful joy or a joy postponed until paradise, as if here on earth we are sad, but in paradise we will be filled with joy. No! It is not that, but a joy already real and tangible now, because Jesus himself is our joy...”
- “Remember this: love is the measure of faith. How much do you love?....How is your faith? My faith is as I love. And faith is the soul of love.”
- “True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something we all feel in our hearts and that makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, the mutual support along life’s journey.”
- “We cannot escape the Lord’s words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison.”
- “We cannot become starched Christians, those overeducated Christians who speak of theological matters as they calmly sip their tea. No! We must become courageous Christians and go in search of the people who are the very flesh of Christ!”
- “The Gospel is very clear: we need to go back [to Galilee], to see Jesus risen, and to become witnesses of his resurrection. This is not to go back in time; it is not a kind of nostalgia. It is returning to our first love, in order to receive the fire Jesus has kindled in the world and bring that fire to all people, to the very ends of the earth.”

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In *The Joy of Discipleship*, the Pope addresses a range of topics with an emphasis on how they shape a person as a disciple of Christ and what that means for how a Christian should live in the world: the patience of God, the Resurrection of Christ, the family, wealth and poverty, the Holy Spirit, and Mary and the Saints. The book is a testament to the “astounding” nature of the Church: “The Church born at Pentecost is an astounding community because, with the force of her arrival from God, a new message is proclaimed—the resurrection of Christ—with a new language, the universal one of love.”

*The Joy of Discipleship* follows two other books by Pope Francis published by Loyola Press: *The Church of Mercy* (2014) and *Walking with Jesus* (2015).

***About the Editor:***

Jim Campbell is a religious educator and author and the staff theologian at Loyola Press. He is the general editor of the *Harper’s New American Bible Study Program* and is the coauthor of the *Finding God* religious education program, published by Loyola Press.

***About the Publisher:***

Loyola Press is a Jesuit ministry serving the Catholic community since its founding in 1912. They are a nonprofit apostolate of the Chicago-Detroit Province of the Society of Jesus.

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*Reflections from Pope Francis on Walking with Christ*  
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