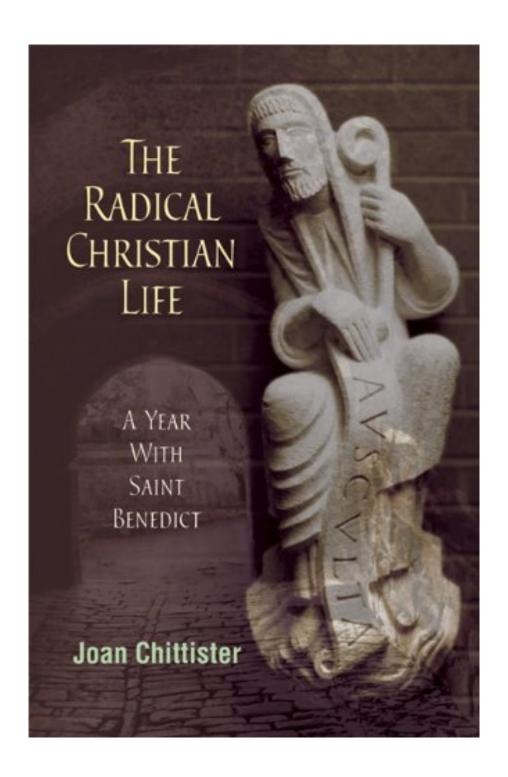


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#### About the Author

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a Benedictine sister and international lecturer who has been a leading voice in spirituality for more than thirty years. She has authored over forty books, most recently Uncommon Gratitude and The Monastery of the Heart, part of a program she is helping to develop to enable lay groups to live Benedictine spirituality in a contemporary way.

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Very little in this world stays fresh and life-giving for 1,500 years. But when that happens we should ask ourselves why and what that had to do with us.

In this book, The Radical Christian Life: A Year with Saint Benedict, Joan Chittister encourages us to look at that question. In an introductory essay she examines how the insights and values of the sixth-century Visionary Saint Benedict can illuminate today's search for a meaningful life. Then she leads us through the year, reflecting on twelve stories from Benedict's life, anecdotes that give us glimpses into his soul. More than that, she draws from these stories daily thoughts for the development of our own spiritual lives in this day and age.

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The one book to read this Advent and ever after, along with the Rule

By Love Thy Enemy

In these radicalized and dangerous days, as terrifying as the fall of the earlier Empire 1500 years ago, we need this book to draw us back to the sanity and the peace, the justice and the equity, the humility and the wisdom, of a fifteen hundred year old book, RB 1980: The Rule of St. Benedict.

The Reverend Sister Joan Chittister OSB, past president of American Benedictine Prioresses, has generously

and graciously served as our own religious superior in gifting us with several of the standard examinations and meditations and explanations of this ancient Rule for Monasteries. We read recently The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century (Spiritual Legacy Series), building upon her meticulous labors in Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today with its useful Wisdom Distilled from the Daily Leader's Guide: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today.

We also read from this Reverend Sister Prioress such spiritual works as The Monastery of the Heart: An Invitation to a Meaningful Life, The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully, The Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer, and now, Happiness, along with countless other edifying and strengthening, consoling and comforting, reinforcing and compassionate pieces so generously and readily available here upon this amazon, all highly recommendable reading for everyone with a human heart in these heartless and divided days.

Here in this present work we find the way to live this year, opening now this Advent, thus preparing us for the new and increasingly uncertain year to come. This work provides a firm rock of peace upon which to rest. This work alone in fact makes excellent Advent lectio divina, as we contemplate trembling the uncertainties of the year to come, reminding our God is ever near, if only we will hear.

We may therefore conveniently keep this pocketbook close to us throughout this coming year's pilgrimage towards firm peace, reading each month, beginning with January, the nourishment and strength she brings.

Humble, and portable, finding space upon any desk, or reading table, by any bed, without overly demanding precious real estate, but paying well the rent on the small space it takes, this book will fill you with pearls of great wisdom, drawing us ever closer to peace, each day, each day drawing from the world's great religious traditions, centering and circling always in Our Holy Father Saint Benedict's Rule, like a gentle liturgical dance.

A perfect gift for the ones you love most, and for yourself, as this is the voice we each need to follow upon this long and lonesome pilgrimage to peace. Far more nourishing and centering than superficial stuff following the enormous, lucrative Chicken Soup for the Soul franchise, this one humble, profound treatise upon our Rule provides an infinitely deep call to peace, and brings us the strength to move on, towards God's peace, each day.

At random let us look at August the first, where the very Reverend Sister Joan remembers

--- One of Eleanor Roosevelt's personal assistants, Mary McLeod Bethune, was black. On one of Eleanor's frequent public trips in the 40's, the two of them were seated together in a first-class railroad compartment working on national projects when the conductor informed Miss Bethune that blacks were not permitted in first-class cars. She would have to move, he said, to one of the back cars. Eleanor Roosevelt was shocked at the situation and immediately began to protest the move. "That's all right, Mrs. Roosevelt," Mary Bethune calmed her. "I don't mind going to a second-class car in the least because, when I get there, it's gonna be first-class." Now that's what you call authenticity. Can you name two places where you were told you didn't belong? How did you feel about it? Why? (p. 79)

For more on the great Mary McLeod Bethune, you might start with Mary McLeod Bethune: Building a Better World. For more about yourself, please begn with this wonderful, revelatory, strengthening book from Sister Joan, please.

Deo gratias.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful Resource

By Barbara F. Fezzi

As always, Joan Chittister writes a concise though thoughtful introduction to her year's study with the Benedictine tradition. The introduction is followed by twelve vignettes from St. Benedict's life, as well as Sister Joan's daily reflections in which she comments upon many of life's concerns relative to all times and seasons. I personally used the book as a daily journal also, adding my own comments on the various subjects covered.

Amazon offers such a wide variety of book titles that I often order books for my library as I did this one.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The Radical Christian Life

By Lisa

Perfect for a 5-10 minute daily devotion that takes you through one year of readings. I would highly recommend for one who wishes to know more about St. Benedict.

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