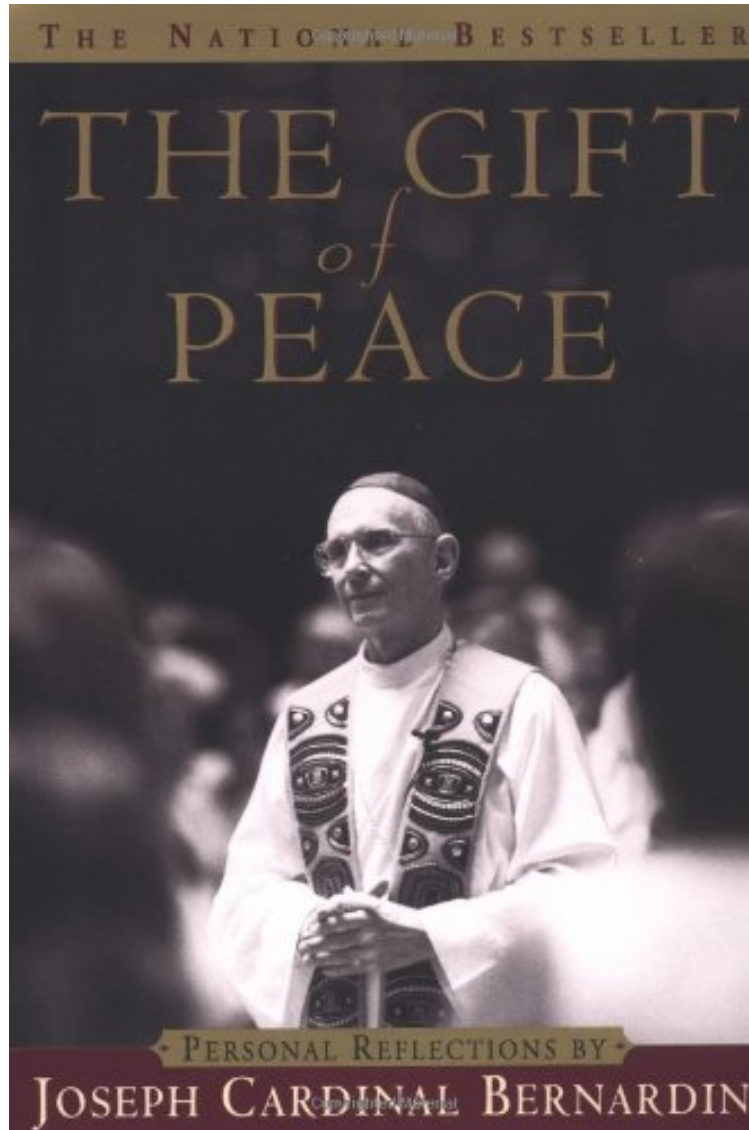


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The Gift of Peace: Personal Reflections

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

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Cardinal Joseph Bernardin : The Gift of Peace: Personal Reflections before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gift of Peace: Personal Reflections:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Cardinal Bernardin's Remarkable Story of Compassion By Antoinette Klein For anyone facing a devastating tragedy or terminal illness, this is an uplifting story one of the great leaders of the American Catholic Church. As Archbishop of Chicago and later a Cardinal, Cardinal Bernardin was a well-known

leader in Catholic circles. The accusation of sexual misconduct leveled at him by a young man catapulted the cardinal into the national spotlight in a humiliating way. Later, the young man recanted his tale and met personally with Cardinal Bernardin to apologize. Through this whole ordeal, the Cardinal acted with great faith, but was naturally bewildered about a charge from a person he did not know about something he knew he did not do. He found the words of John 8:32 (The truth will set you free) to be his guiding light and found their promise fulfilled. The story of the allegations and their later withdrawal is a small part of the recollections he shares with us in his very personal and intimate style. The major thrust of the book concerns his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and how he struggled with his fate and rediscovered a newer and stronger faith in God. In a very heartfelt way he discusses his understanding of suffering---not merely its inevitability but also its purpose and redemptive value. He recalls quite vividly the words Jesus used at the Last Supper, knowing that in a matter of hours he would be crucified. "Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you as my disciples: your love for one another." Cardinal Bernardin lived these words, most completely in the last three years of his life, the period covered by this remembrance. As noted by others, this book comes as close as any to a person describing their final days on earth and preparing to enter the kingdom of God. Cardinal Bernardin finished the book on November 1, 1996 and died thirteen days later on November 14, 1996. Even if you have never heard of him, you will be inspired by his poignant recounting of a life well spent and discovering the great gift of inner peace amidst tragedy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful reflection
By Lady Jude
A remarkable book by a remarkable man. A realistic account of the life and death of a holy man. I give these books to those who can benefit from this insight.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. When Bad Things Happened To A Good Man
By Linda Wawroski
This book is different for people who have experienced difficult lives, and those who have not. For those of us who have, the gentle Cardinal gave us new ways to evaluate our responses to emotional and physical pain. For people who have been spared life's worst, this is a detailed account of how a sincere Christian dealt with awful situations. Cardinal Bernardin becomes a man I would have liked to meet.

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin's gentle leadership throughout his life of ministerial service had made him an internationally beloved figure, but the words he left behind about his final journey would change the lives of many more people from all faiths, from all backgrounds, and from all over the world. In the last two months of his life, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin made it his ultimate mission to share his personal reflections and insights as a legacy to those he left behind. The Gift of Peace reveals the Cardinal's spiritual growth amid a string of traumatic events: a false accusation of sexual abuse; reconciliation a year later with his accuser, who had earlier recanted the charges; a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and surgery; the return of cancer, now in his liver; his decision to discontinue chemotherapy and live his remaining days as fully as possible. In these pages, Bernardin tells his story openly and honestly, and shares the profound peace he came to at the end of his life. He accepted his peace as a gift from God, and he in turn now shares that gift with the world.

"A wonderful book celebrating and showing the way to peace."--New York Newsday
"Poignant."--Chicago Tribune
"A gem of a book."--Publishers Weekly
"This is a book for people of all religions."--Columbus Dispatch
"Very moving--written with simplicity and deep wisdom."--Library Journal
"A gentle, personal voice."--USA Today
"This uplifting book testifies to a life well spent--The Cardinal shares with his readers a tremendous trust in the Lord that results in inner peace--Simple true words that can give us all a deeper sense of hope."--America
"Overflows with strength and compassion--Bernardin's recipe for personal peace transcends organized religion."--Paul Reid, Palm Beach Post
"In his final testament, Cardinal Bernardin urges the dying to bask in the light of each other."--Newsweek
"We come to know a humble man who touched many people with love and compassion, without judgment."--Hartford Courant
From the Inside Flap
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From the Back Cover
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