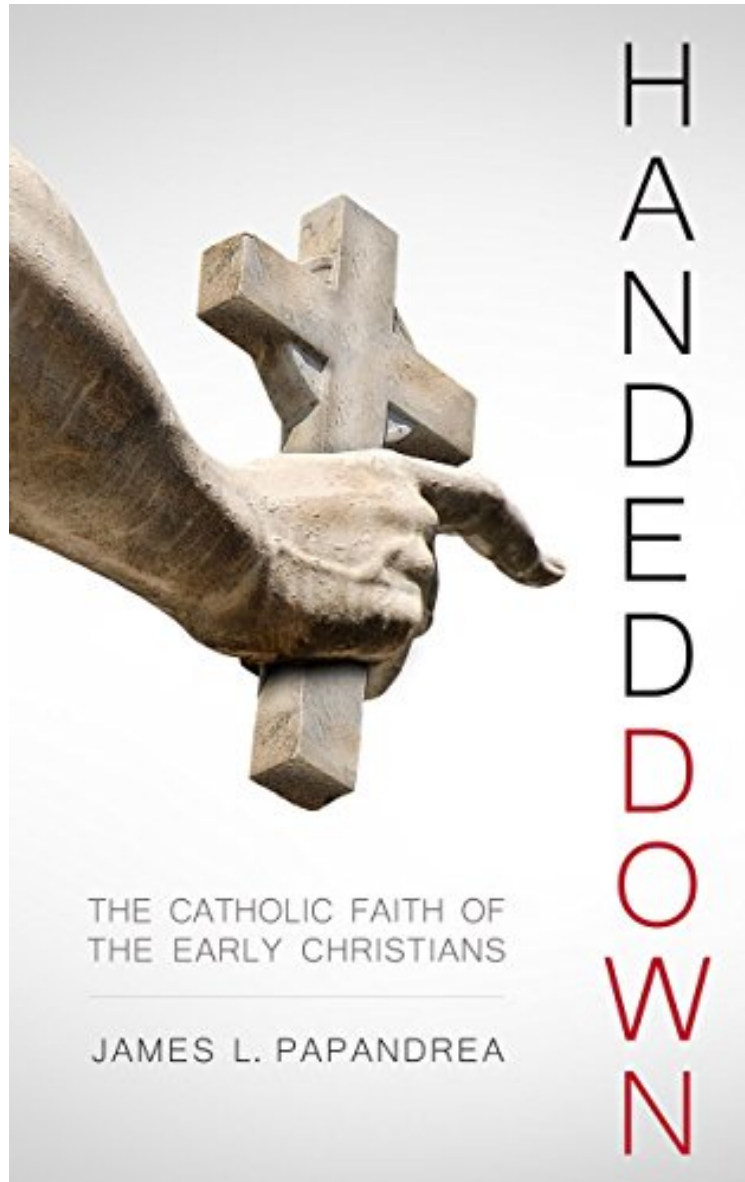


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Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of the Early Christians

James L. Papandrea

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James L. Papandrea : Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of the Early Christians before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of the Early Christians:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting and Engaging WorkBy MarkThis book was and is a very pleasant read. A few adjectives i would use to describe it are: informative, interesting, well organized, thorough

and extremely well presented. If you are one of those people who are interested in Church history as well as the development of her traditions this book is for you. If you are one of those people who are interested in apologetics work, this book is for you. If you are one of those people who like to learn things you never knew before, chances are this book is for you. Unlike other books that present many of the sayings of the early church fathers this author takes a different approach. (Not to take away from other books that are very informative as well as great resources.)The book contains many of the usual suspects when confronting non Catholics in reference to the church's teachings on Mary, Salvation, Indulgences, Purgatory, the seven sacraments and other mainline teachings of the church. What i like is Mr. Papandrea's approach to the various subjects with solid reasoning. He explains thoroughly where the teaching or dogma comes from and how, when and why it developed in the early church. For example, some of the reasons for the sacrament of marriage may surprise you. During the discourse, the author introduces us to some of the quotes from various church fathers. He doesn't spend a tremendous amount of time on everything they had to say and does not bore us with a bunch of facts and dates all at once. He unfolds the facts a little at a time and you will have that moment when you will stop and think to yourself, "I didn't know that." His explanation of salvation in relation to grace and works and faith alone is well done and he shows us how we and some other Protestant groups aren't really much different in our beliefs.I found this book an easy read yet very engaging and hard to put down. I would recommend it to anyone wherever they are in their walk of faith. I would probably give it to someone who is thinking of coming into the church or going through RCIA. It's a good reference as well as one of the best apologetic works i have ever read. Though James L. Papandrea may not be one of those names you have never heard of yet, his work belongs "up there" alongside Tim Staples and Jimmy Akin. There is so much more to be said about how really great this book is! For now i can only say I will look forward to more books by this author.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. The author is particularly good on the New TestamentBy OXFORD DONThere are many studies of the Early Church Fathers that demonstrate that the Roman Catholic Church as we now know it was ,in its essentials, fully in place by the end of the third century. The teachings of the Fathers were from the apostles or from those whom the apostles taught. There is a continuity of teaching and practice constant for two thousand years from Peter to Francis. However, this work is the clearest and most forceful of all the many such books that I have read in many decades. It is also informed by profound scholarship with a multitude of references. The author is particularly good on the New Testament. Showing that the Bible is a product of, comes FROM, the Church and not the other way round. That, in fact, there was no NT as we understand it until the Church assembled and canonized the 27 books. Protestants love to say that their churches are based on the Bible. But the the Bible is,in fact, based on the Church. It always amazes me how little protestants know about the history of the Bible--as if it were lowered from Heaven on a golden rope. If protestants believe that the NT is the revealed word of God, they must believe that the Church was without error when she assembled it--that it got the right 27 books of the many gospels floating around at the time. But if the Church was without error then,one asks protestants,"why are you not Catholic"? Or, when exactly did the Church fall into error, and how is that possible since Christ promised to be with her until "the consummation of the world"?As the Bible is the book of the Church,belongs to the Church, she is the final authority on its meanings. For that reason, I never debate with protestants about scripture interpretation. Luther, Calvin ,Henry VIII were just 16th century guys who had no authority whatever to teach anyone anything about Christianity. The truth of that can be seen in the proliferation of protestant sects (30K and counting). Unfortunately, the author does engage in such analysis which inevitably lends credence to a variety of heretical views--he even speaks of "denominations". But the Catholic Church is not one "denomination" among others-- it is THE Church, as the author has so clearly demonstrated in the first part of his book. This does no favor to protestants whose central heresy is private judgement. Better just to say that the faith by which all men must live is the faith of the See of Peter--and leave it at that.10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A very clear, approachable look at the inter-relationship between ...By ChickA very clear, approachable look at the inter-relationship between Christ, the Church, Scripture, Tradition and Apostolic succession. Dr. Papandrea explores the writings of several of the Fathers of the Church as they examined what it is to be Christian and how to remain true the the church founded by Jesus and preached by the Apostles

Most Protestants believe that there s a great contrast between modern Catholicism and first-centuries Christianity. But in this exploration of history and early theological writings, Papandrea (a former Protestant minister) shows that there s actually a stunning similarity. In *Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of the Early Christians*, James L. Papandrea (Seven Revolutions) examines that most crucial era in the transmission of Christian truth: the time of the early Church. During those few centuries following the apostolic age, the brilliant and holy pastors, teachers, and writers known as the Church Fathers took the gospel they received and developed the doctrines and practices that defined the Christian religion. And that religion of the Fathers continues today faithfully kept, vibrant and alive in the Catholic Church. The essence of Christianity is this: we hold fast to what we were given by those who came before us. From Jesus and the apostles to believers throughout history, God s saving revelation has been proclaimed, preserved, and passed on, each generation not inventing the Faith for itself but staying true to the tradition it received. Papandrea demonstrates that the early Christians were decisively Catholic in how they acted and what they believed in, including: -The authority of

the Church and Sacred Tradition in addition to Scripture -The sacraments, including the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist -An ecclesial hierarchy with priests, bishops, and a pope -A theology of salvation that included the importance of works and free will -Prayers and devotions to the saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary More than a compilation of Patristic prooftexts (important though these are), Handed Down offers a fascinating window into the life of the early Church and the lessons it holds for us today. It s perfect for history-conscious Protestants looking for a friendly defense of Catholic belief, as well as for Catholics who want to deepen their connection with our forefathers in the Faith.