

Other books with and about Pope Benedict XVI by Peter Seewald

After Peter Seewald wrote what some believed was an unfair attack on then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Catholics who read the piece urged Seewald to actually meet with the man he criticized. Seewald did, and developed a dialogue with the man who succeeded The Venerable John Paul II as leader of the Catholic Church. Possibly the most significant result of that dialogue is “Light of the World: the Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times.”

The new book, however, is not the first Seewald has written with and about the Pontiff – and it’s not the first book-length interview the two have conducted. Seewald’s other works include:

“Salt of the Earth: The Church at the End of the Millennium” (1997) – Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was head of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith when he and Seewald had the interview that led to this book. In “Salt of the Earth,” Ratzinger discussed his life, from growing up and what his family life was like to becoming a priest – and, ultimately a Cardinal and the Church’s major authority on doctrine. He also talked about problems in the Catholic Church at the dawn of a new millennium, identifying the challenges he saw and talking about his hopes for the world and the Church.

“God and the World: Believing and Living in Our Time” (2002) – The interview for this book took place over three full days at the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino in a setting of the silence, prayer, and hospitality of the monks. For this meeting with the highly regarded Churchman, theologian, and author, Seewald provided a very stimulating, well-prepared series of wide-ranging questions on profound issues. The Cardinal responded with candor, frankness and deep insight, giving answers that were sometimes surprising and always thought provoking. A comment in his preface suggests why so many people are looking forward to “Light of the World.” Cardinal Ratzinger wrote that “Mr. Seewald had prepared (for the interview) with great care. I had to rely on the inspiration of the moment.”

“Pope Benedict XVI: Servant of the Truth” (2006) – Seewald presents a biography of Pope Benedict XVI in a book that also includes a stunning collection of personal and, in some cases, surprising photographs. He looks at the path that led Joseph Ratzinger to his position as the 265th Pope of the Catholic Church.

“Pope Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait” (2008) – Seewald followed up his biography of Pope Benedict with this book, which includes his description of the interviews that led to “Salt of the Earth” and “God and the World.” The book includes details about the Pope’s life and personality that were previously unknown. Seewald calls this book the story of a long dialogue with the Pope that changed his life.