



The Real Luther: A Friar at Erfurt and Wittenberg

By Franz Posset

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Roman Catholic Scholar, Franz Posset, carefully explores the history of Luther's development in the crucial years of 1501-17 before Luther's views were disputed. Setting aside legends and accusations, Posset gets at the facts about Luther as a late medieval friar in an age of reform. The book includes:

Illustrations from Luther's career

A complete, new translation of Philip Melanchthon's memoirs of Luther's life, based on actual discussions with Luther

A fresh chronology of Luther's life from 1501-17, based on the latest research

Extensive references to both primary and secondary literature for Luther studies

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Editorial Review

Review

Students and researchers should read this book as a model for how to do Reformation History.

---Markus Wriedt, Dr. theol. habil., Professor of Historical Theology/Church History, Goethe University Frankfurt/Main and Marquette University

A fascinating history . . . Luther is both a Catholic and a Reformer at the same time.

---Wolfgang Thoenissen, Dr. theol. habil., Professor of Ecumenical Theology, Faculty of Theology, Paderborn

I was constantly fascinated and sometimes even thrilled by his insights into Dr. Martin's continuity with medieval theology.

---Bishop Richard J. Sklba, Vicar General/Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, Co-chair of the National Lutheran/Catholic Dialogue

I write to commend your publication of Dr. Franz Posset's *The Real Luther: A Friar at Erfurt and Wittenberg* (2011). I have read and examined the book carefully, and find that it makes several important and original contributions to Luther research. These contributions combine to make this work a 'game-changer' for our understanding of Martin Luther. . . . The Luther that emerges from this analysis is no less profound a theologian, but he bears a significantly less agonistic relationship to his own catholic past. This fact alone makes Posset's work a signal contribution not only to the historical understanding of Martin Luther, but to improved ecumenical mutual understanding between Catholics and Lutherans as well. To that extent, the work packs a two-fold punch, substantially revising both our historical understanding and our ecumenical situation at the same time. . . . All of us, on either side of the Catholic-Lutheran divide, are challenged to reconsider both the history and the reasons that have led to this division. To that extent, *The Real Luther* is a book that will be helpful both to Reformation historians and to theologians as well. I urge you to give this important new publication every opportunity to receive the scholarly recognition it so richly deserves.

(Letter, 24 June 2011) --Mickey L. Mattox, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology and Director of Undergraduate Studies in Theology, Marquette University

Luther was not only a giant of the faith but also a "man for all seasons" whose life and work have relevance for every generation of believers. A man of towering intellect, his life changed the course of Christian history and reverberates even today in theological discussions. Franz Posset's *The Real Luther* reexamines Luther's contributions to the Reformation and burnishes the image of the man behind the legend. By focusing on the historic association of Luther and Melanchthon Posset brings new insights and perspectives into why the Reformation finally prevailed. Few men are as qualified as Posset to tell this story. Students of Christian history owe a debt of gratitude to him for this elegant biography. --George Thomas Kurian, President, Encyclopedia Society; Editor, World Christian Encyclopedia; Editor, Dictionary of Christianity; Editor, Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization; Editor, Encyclopedia of Christian Literature

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About the Author

Author Franz Posset, PhD, is an independent researcher and an associate editor of *Luther Digest*. He has authored five books, including *The Front-Runner of the Catholic Reformation: The Life and Works of Johann von Staupitz* (2003), and articles for historical encyclopedias. His scholarly research has also appeared in numerous journals. In 2003 he was awarded the Natalie Zemon Davis Prize for superb scholarship.

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Robert Jones:

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