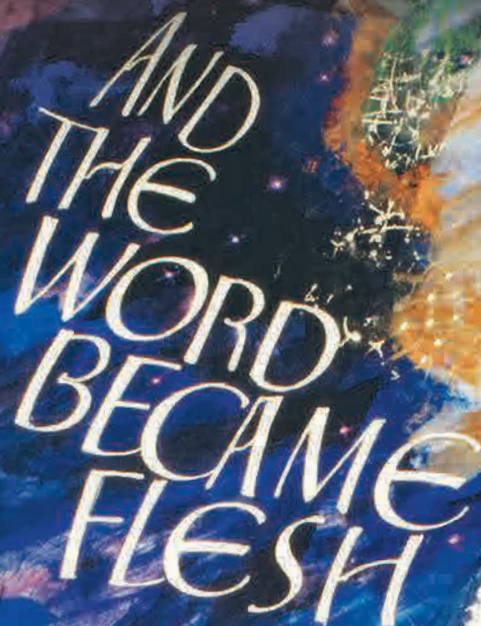


The Apostles Edition

Limited to Twelve Editions



AND
THE
WORD
BECAME
FLESH

AND
LIVED
AMONG
US

*“And you will be my witnesses...
to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8



The Saint John's Bible

The Dream

From childhood, Donald Jackson dreamed of creating a handwritten, illuminated Bible like the ones he saw at the British Library. Entering art school at 13, he became an internationally renowned calligrapher and official scribe to late Queen Elizabeth II. In 1995, he witnessed the monks of Saint John's Abbey and University processing with the Book of Gospels during liturgy and proposed the Bible project. So it was that the artist and the monastic community came together to do something not done since the invention of the printing press in the 15th century: create a Bible in the manner of the early Benedictines who, in their scriptoriums, produced and preserved some of the greatest texts of Western Civilization.

Theological Rigor

The Committee on Illumination and Text (CIT), a group of art historians, medievalists, artists, biblical scholars and theologians, convened at Saint John's University and presented Donald Jackson with briefs and abstracts for the scripture illuminations. This group, under the leadership of Fr. Michael Patella, OSB, acted as clients for the work, offering direction and approving final sketches, as well as receiving the pages as each of the seven volumes was completed. *The Saint John's Bible* contains the text and notes of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation. This translation was chosen because it is theologically sound and approved by a large number of Christian denominations.

Inspiring Art

An international team of calligraphers and artists created the 1,150-page manuscript and its 160 major illuminations. Each folio is two feet tall by three feet wide and will be bound into seven volumes at the end of the exhibition phase of the project. The script was devised by Donald Jackson to be legible, modern, and appropriately dignified for this sacred text. In addition, he wanted a script with speed, flexibility—"juice"—in keeping with the living Word.

Living Word

The Saint John's Bible reflects Benedictine values, particularly highlighting three themes: hospitality; conversion of life; and justice for God's people. Additionally, gold leaf was used liberally to represent the divine, palladium/platinum to reflect the principle of wisdom, and rainbows to show God's promise in the vivid illuminations in the volumes Prophets and Revelation. Inked stamps, textile patterns and other motifs carry themes across volumes. A wide range of artistic styles, including iconography, abstraction, chrysography and illustration, work together to expand our visual vocabulary for the sacred.

For Now and Always

The imagery, like the text, is alive and constantly rewards the modern day seeker. The Apostles Edition makes it possible for a select number of patrons to own a museum-quality fine art edition of *The Saint John's Bible* created under the direction of Donald Jackson. It is the highest level of participation in the Bible's mission: "To ignite the spiritual imagination of people around the world of all faith journeys."

*“One of the
extraordinary
undertakings
of our times.”*

— Smithsonian Magazine

*“America's
Book of Kells”*

— Newsweek Magazine

Experience *The Saint John's Bible*: The Apostles Edition

There is only one *Saint John's Bible*. Its 1,165 pages were handwritten with quills using 19th century Chinese ink on calfskin vellum and illuminated by a team of artists and calligraphers under the direction of Donald Jackson. It is an accomplishment of great beauty and singular brilliance. And it is a gift to the world—the text of the Bible written and illuminated for the 21st century in order to spark creativity, reflection, and engagement with God's Word.

You can participate in bringing this gift to the world by acquiring one of the twelve Apostles Editions. Through this subscription, you will be joining the Morgan Library, the Vatican Museum of Art, and just a few others in the world who own this historic work of art.

"...the group I was part of audibly gasped when the book was opened to the beginning of Matthew, where the genealogy of Christ was depicted as a complex, densely-colored menorah with golden highlights. I found myself bending down to get a better feel for the rich surface of the page."

— Gregory Wolfe, Founder of *Image Magazine*, from his article on Patheos.com



The Making of An Apostles Edition

The seven volumes of the Apostles Edition of *The Saint John's Bible* are true to the scale, beauty, and artistic intent of the original manuscript. Each set is enhanced with a personalized dedication page for the donor, a custom case built by Saint John's Abbey Woodworking, and an additional piece of original art by one of the original artists commissioned by Saint John's University.

The paper of the Apostles Edition is 100% cotton and designed specifically for this project. The weight and feel of the pages approximate that of the vellum used in the original manuscript.

Printing and illuminating the Apostles Edition required state-of-the-art lithographic printing technologies from Heidelberg Corporation combined with embossed and hand-finished gold and silver treatments. In order to be true to the original, even the "show-through" of vellum is captured on the Apostles Edition pages.

Unique to the Apostles Edition, each volume is traditionally bound with wooden boards and vegetable-tanned calfskin. The yapp edge extends past the text block and the leather features inlaid and hand-tooled gold leaf. The finishing touches include a 14-karat gold-plated decorative clasp and, on the title page, Donald Jackson's initials and the Apostles Edition number, limited to just 12.

"There became a point when the reproduction stopped being an imitation of the original and became a work of art in its own right."

— Donald Jackson

Apostles Edition

Pentateuch | Historical Books | Wisdom Books | Psalms | Prophets |
Gospels & Acts | Letters & Revelation



On the signature page of the first volume, Pentateuch, a dedication page is created for each Apostles Edition. Personalized for the donor, this page will forever identify the particular set. As a rare edition of *The Saint John's Bible*, each set will carry the name of its benefactor as the story of *The Saint John's Bible* is told and recorded in art history.

Photo by David Huff

Volume 1: Pentateuch

Genesis | Exodus | Leviticus | Numbers | Deuteronomy



Creation, Adam and Eve, the Ten Commandments, Abraham and Sarah, Exodus ... some of the greatest moments of the Bible find expression in the first five books, the Pentateuch, also known as the Torah.

"We tend to read greedily and hastily, as we do so many other things; this beautiful text shows us a better way. This project not only revives the ancient tradition of the church sponsoring creative arts, it also offers an insight into that lost skill of patient and prayerful reading."

—The Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Former Archbishop of Canterbury

Ten Commandments, Thomas Ingmire, Copyright 2002, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Minnesota USA.

Volume 2: Historical Books

Joshua | Judges | Ruth | 1 Samuel | 2 Samuel | 1 Kings | 2 Kings | 1 Chronicles |
2 Chronicles | Ezra | Nehemiah | Tobit | Judith | Esther | 1 Maccabees | 2 Maccabees



"The Bible stands as testament to God's love for us; only that force could compel such amazing effort over so many years by many talented people. For those of us who teach within the Ignatian tradition, The Saint John's Bible inspires moments of reflection and discernment in our faculty and students."

— Dr. John Pauly, former provost at Marquette University

In purples, greens and gold, the illuminations in *Historical Books* explore the relationship of God's people to God's promise. Marginal text treatments trace the Israelites' rise and fall as they move through the era of judges and kings, with prophets guiding the way.

Volume 3: Wisdom Books

Job | Proverbs | Ecclesiastes | The Song of Solomon | The Wisdom of Solomon | Sirach



*"This is a work of art ...
a beautiful work of art ...
a work for eternity."*

— His Holiness, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The feminine nature of Wisdom is highlighted in the artwork and text treatments of this volume. Adorning the pages of these often lyrical passages you will find some of the most inventive, beautiful, and inspiring works of art in the entire project.

Volume 4: Psalms

Book I | Book II | Book III | Book IV | Book V

Psalms is the prayer book of the church. Benedictines chant and pray the psalms several times a day. This volume is graced with digital prints of the monks at Saint John's Abbey chanting their daily prayer, as well as representations of other chant traditions throughout the world.

"The illuminations are not illustrations. They are spiritual meditations on the text. It is a very Benedictine approach to Scriptures."

— Fr. Michael Patella, OSB, Chair, Committee on Illumination and Text

Volume 5: Prophets

Isaiah | Jeremiah | Lamentations-Baruch | Ezekiel | Daniel | Hosea | Joel - Amos | Obadiah - Haggai | Zechariah - Malachi

The visions of the prophets during the time of the Babylonian Exile provided inspiration for Jackson and his team. Modern and period images collide in vibrant illuminations full of promise, sorrow and, ultimately, joy. This book's full power is revealed by placing it alongside *Historical Books* and *Revelation*

"The Beinecke Library and the Institute of Sacred Music are pleased to help bring such an outstanding work to Yale. The acquisition of The Saint John's Bible will provide an opportunity for scholars, faculty, and students to compare this modern edition with the Beinecke's medieval manuscripts and early printed Bibles."

— E.C. Shroeder, Director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University



Volume 6: Gospels & Acts

Matthew | Mark | Luke | John | Acts of the Apostles



"My experience with The Saint John's Bible was love at first sight. It radiates hope and speaks to people of all faith journeys."

— Tita Diepenbrock, Donor of *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition to Santa Clara University

The first volume completed for *The Saint John's Bible* project, the pages of *Gospels & Acts* abound with significant illuminations and text treatments. The life of Christ and the journey of the early church are explored in theologically rich and startling new ways that reward ongoing reflection.

Volume 7: Letters and Revelation

Romans | 1 Corinthians | 2 Corinthians | Galatians | Ephesians | Philippians | Colossians |
1 Thessalonians | 2 Thessalonians | 1 Timothy | 2 Timothy | Titus | Philemon | Hebrews |
James | 1 Peter | 2 Peter | 1 John | 2 John | 3 John | Jude | Revelation



In *Letters*, a series of text treatments highlight the foundational teachings of the Christian tradition. Then, in the final great letter to the churches, the *Revelation to John at Patmos*, Donald Jackson wrote the entire text and created each page's rich illumination, bringing the *Apostles Edition* to its culmination.

"The Bible is the calligraphic artist's supreme challenge (our Sistine Chapel), a daunting task."

— Donald Jackson



The Apostles Edition Subscription

Limited to just 12 editions, the subscription price of the Apostles Edition is \$1,000,000. Each subscription includes the following:

- Seven-volume limited Apostles Edition
- Custom dedication page by an original artist
- Separate work of art by an original artist
- Deluxe viewing display and cabinet
- Donation of seven-volume Heritage Edition to a qualified nonprofit institution

Original Artwork By An Original Artist

Saint John's University will commission an additional piece of original art by an original artist for each Apostle Edition subscriber. This freestanding piece, suitable for framing, will reflect the donor's commitment and personal investment in the mission of *The Saint John's Bible*.

Display

The Apostles Edition will be housed in a deluxe viewing stand and cabinet made by Saint John's Abbey Woodworking. The seven-drawer cabinet is made of quarter-sawn red oak with Welsh oak and ebony accents, reflections of the Minnesota and Wales collaboration. Accents reference Saint John's Abbey Church built in 1960 by Marcel Breuer. Leather-lined drawer bottoms have finger recesses to assist in easily removing the volumes.



Heritage Edition

Saint John's University will donate a complete seven-volume Heritage Edition to a qualifying institution in the donor's name. In this way, the donor's gift goes beyond a private collection to inspire the larger community. This limited edition set can be used in liturgies, by scholars, and in the daily life of a faith community.

"For our family, The Saint John's Bible is a beautiful art masterpiece, and more than that, it's a way to spread the faith around the world."

— Judy Rauenhorst Doerr, board member of the Papal Foundation and daughter of Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst, whose foundation gifted the Apostles Edition to the Vatican Museum of Art and personally presented volumes to Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis I.

Below: Saint John's Abbot John Klassen, past President Michael Hemesath, President Emeritus Dan Whalen and Donald Jackson present the Letters & Revelation volume of the Apostles Edition to His Holiness, Pope Francis I.

Photo © L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO





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