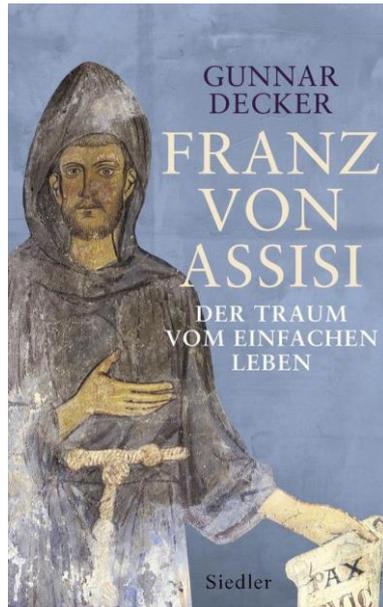


Francis: a clerical legend whose teachings are still relevant today



Dr. Gunnar Decker
Francis of Assisi
[Franz von Assisi]
The dream of a simple life

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Gunnar Decker, born in 1965, gained his PhD in religious philosophy. He has published a number of highly acclaimed biographies of, for example, Hermann Hesse, Gottfried Benn and Franz Fühmann. His most recent publication is the history book *1965: The Short Summer of East Germany*. In addition, he reviews films and is an editor of the *Theater der Zeit* magazine. In 2016 he was awarded the Heinrich Mann Prize by the Berlin Academy of Arts.

It was in memory of the begging monk Francis of Assisi that Jesuit Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose Francis as his papal name – a choice that indicated where his heart lay, especially as none of his predecessors in the Vatican had ever held this name. It is the "return to the origins" with which the founder of the Franciscan Order left his mark not only on the 13th century. His ideals made a modern conception of humankind possible in the first place, and in this day and age of turbo capitalism and overwhelming digitalisation provide more support and a greater anchor than ever.

In his astute and well-informed biography Gunnar Decker has traced the life and works of Francis of Assisi and brings his ideals up to the present day and into our modern way of thinking. This monk's message very often provides answers to questions we ask ourselves today.

"Extremely accurate, with a high degree of analytical power and, last but not least, an excellent narrative." *Die Welt* on *Hesse – The Wanderer and His Shadow*

Press

"It is fascinating in this brilliant, remarkably informative and masterfully structured narrative how Decker reconstructs the reality of [...] Assisi from the historical records [...]" *Lesart*, 3/16

"Decker takes a careful, scrutinising look at the most

important stations of this life." *Lesart, 3/16*

"From the best-researched historical, ecclesiastical, and economic sources, the author has succeeded in writing an outstandingly detailed and tender yet overall unsentimental biography [...]." *Das Wesentliche*