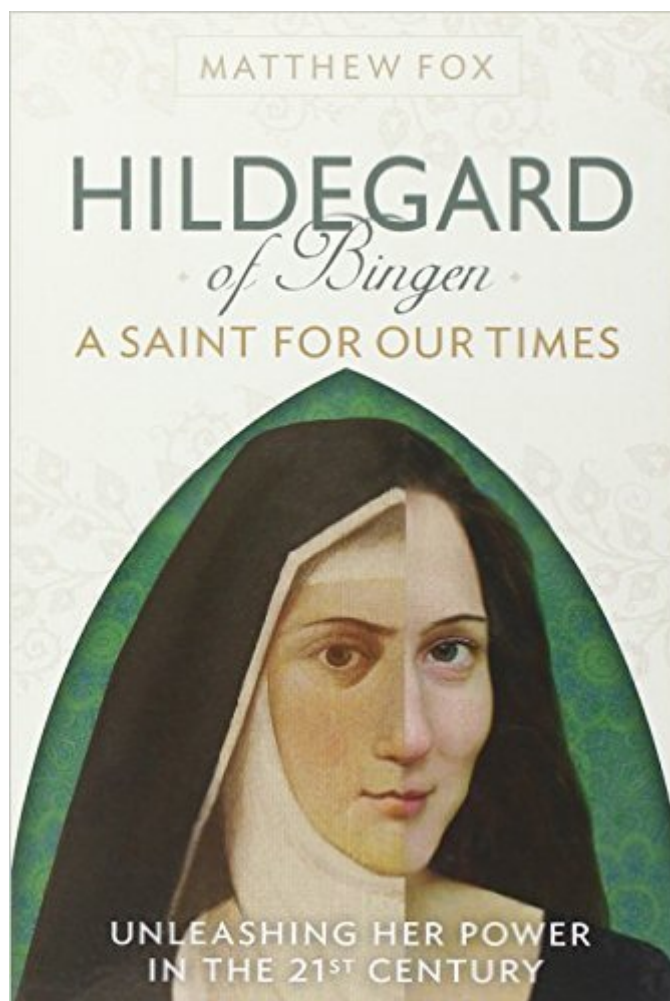


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# HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: A Saint For Our Times: Unleashing Her Power In The 21st Century



## Synopsis

In May, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared 12th century Benedictine nun Hildegard of Bingen a canonized saint, with the canonization ceremony scheduled for October. He regards her as one of the great thinkers who has helped shape the thought of the Catholic Church. Today there are many websites and Hildegard groups that celebrate and honor Hildegard's teachings, philosophy, art, and music. Author Matthew Fox writes in Hildegard of Bingen about this amazing woman and what we can learn from her. In an era when women were marginalized, Hildegard was an outspoken, controversial figure. Yet so visionary was her insight that she was sought out by kings, popes, abbots, and bishops for advice. A sixteenth century follower of Martin Luther called her "the first Protestant" because of her appeals to reform the church. As a writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, Benedictine abbess, healer, artist, feminist, and student of science, Hildegard was a pioneer in many fields in her day. For many centuries after her death Hildegard was ignored or even ridiculed but today is finally being recognized for her immense contribution to so many areas, including our understanding of our spiritual relationship to the earth; a contribution that touches on key issues faced by our planet in the 21st century, particularly with regard to the environment and ecology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: A Saint for Our Times: Unleashing Her Power in the 21st Century [Paperback] Matthew Fox , Namaste: Vancouver. 2012  
In Matthew Fox, we have a friend of Hildegard, a friend of mystics, prophets, and thinkers. This newest book on Hildegard offers a

creative view of the woman from 1000 years ago. Imagine a conversation between Hildegard and Einstein, Hildegard and poet Mary Oliver, Hildegard and Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Hildegard and the Curia. While reading this lively and clear description of the woman, her philosophy, her interests and her achievements, I wondered whether and how she might help me to enrich my own spirituality. Calling Hildegard a "Wild Woman" in the style of Clarissa Pinkola Estes was a striking image. According to Fox, a prophet is one who interferes. A mystic is one who lives the mysteries. A fully-developed person is like a mosaic -an elegant interaction among music, art, thought, leadership, dance, discourse, preaching, letter-writing, in-your-face directives, gentle "as a feather on the breath of God." Kings, popes, abbots, and bishops sought Hildegard for advice, and she went ahead and confronted them whether they asked for help or not. A follower of Martin Luther called her "the first Protestant" because she knew the church needed reform. As a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, abbess, healer, artist, feminist, and student of science, Hildegard seemed to be ahead of her time. Hildegard was a wounded woman as well. She alluded to her suffering, which is, after all, the lot of humanity, but did not dwell on it. It appears that she put the painful experiences into the mix of her life ... something else to ponder, to sing about, to build up her courage, to keep her focus.

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