

Books Written by Fr. Joseph F. Girzone

Joshua: A Parable for Today

Rooted in a scrupulously accurate reading of scripture, *Joshua* is a profoundly moving, deeply inspiring book that no reader will ever forget. Sometimes it happens. After two thousand years, the human race may be given a second chance. When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are mystified by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself by working as a carpenter. He charges very little for his services, yet his craftsmanship is exquisite. The statue of Moses that he carves for the local synagogue prompts amazement as well as consternation. What are the townsfolk to make of this enigmatic stranger? Some people report having seen him carry a huge cherry log on his shoulders effortlessly. Still others talk about the child in a poor part of town who was dreadfully ill but, after Joshua's visit, recovered completely. Despite his benevolence and selfless work in the community, some remain suspicious. Finally, in an effort to address the community's doubts, Joshua is confronted by the local church leaders.

Joshua and the City

The fourth installment in the Joshua series, *Joshua and the City* reaches some encouraging and very important conclusions. In an urban community where poverty, senseless violence, racism, and AIDS seem like insurmountable problems, Joshua manages to sow seeds of renewal with his words of love. He reaches out to every person with transforming openness, showing how to regenerate the city and bring about undreamed-of economic revitalization. Yet many other problems remain that money cannot help. And it is, most importantly, to these that Joshua addresses his healing message. In a world of despairing doubt, *Joshua and the City* gives the reader hopeful answers that lead toward peace and understanding.

Joshua's Family: The Long-Awaited Prequel to the Bestselling Joshua

This engaging prequel to Joseph Girzone's bestselling series, which has sold more than 5 million books in the United States, describes Joshua's early years and the first inklings of his destiny as a messenger of love in a troubled world. Millions of readers around the world have followed the story of the gentle woodcarver and carpenter who was first introduced in 1983 in Joseph Girzone's beloved parable, *Joshua*. In *Joshua's Family*, Girzone travels back in time, painting a captivating portrait of the mother and father who nurtured Joshua and of the friends and neighbors who viewed the unusually precocious child with an uneasy balance of wonder and skepticism. Joshua's extraordinary nature and mysterious gifts come to light even as he participates in the ordinary routines of small-town life: his gentleness and loving spirit imbue his interactions with contemporaries and adults alike. As he grows from child to adolescent, Joshua gradually awakens to the knowledge that he has been placed on earth for a special reason. Leaving the comforts of family and a familiar world, he moves to the outskirts of a distant town, where he will begin to teach others how the powers of love, tolerance, and understanding can heal the divisions in the human family and bring everlasting peace to the world. This is the book so many have been waiting for, and its powerful message is a much-needed antidote to the difficulties in today's world.

Joshua in a Troubled World: A Story for Our Time

The bestselling *Joshua* series takes an invigorating, timely new turn as Girzone's beloved hero spreads his message of love and compassion from the streets of our nation's capital to the blood-soaked lands of the Middle East. Joseph Girzone possesses a unique ability to make Jesus' words and actions come to life for contemporary audiences. His fictional depictions of Jesus' return to the present-day world—the *Joshua* series—have inspired millions of readers. *Joshua in a Troubled World* is at once a magnificent continuation of his perennially popular series and an enlightening perspective on the political paranoia and destructive acts of vengeance that fill the front pages of our daily newspapers. Arriving in Washington, D.C., Joshua walks along Pennsylvania Avenue with a cool detachment and determination that sets him apart from the bustling crowds. Under ordinary circumstances, he would no doubt be seen simply as a man wrapped in his own thoughts. But in these security-obsessed times, his Middle Eastern appearance and his spontaneous stops at various churches, temples, and mosques inevitably arouse suspicions. Taken into custody by two government agents, Joshua challenges the legal and moral justness of their actions and they reluctantly release him to continue his mission. It is the most difficult and controversial mission he has ever undertaken—a plan to unite Arab- and Jewish-Americans and to work with them to resolve the bitter wars and religious animosities in the Middle East. Peopled with prominent figures such as Ariel Sharon, and moving from Washington to Beirut and then to Oslo while the peace accords are being hammered out, *Joshua in a Troubled World* explores the most explosive issues of our day and offers a realistic, compassionate assessment of the things that divide us and the beliefs that can serve as a foundation for a new, more peaceful world.

Joshua in the Holy Land

But home is no more peaceful than it was during the "time long ago" remembered by Joshua. Violent, seemingly intractable disputes poison the very air. It falls to Joshua, retracing the path taken two millennia ago, to lead his followers to peace in this world as well as in the next. *Joshua in the Holy Land* will carry every reader back to where it all began. Back to Nazareth and Bethlehem. Back to Capernaum and Bethany. Back to Jerusalem. Full of resonances with the Gospels, *Joshua in the Holy Land* is a profoundly satisfying addition to the Joshua phenomenon.

Joshua and the Shepherd

With simple and profound prose, Joseph Girzone bringing to light incredible insights into modern Christianity and adds to his bestselling series with the story of the revolutionary Joshua in a contemporary setting. It is the end of a bitter cold winter. A crowd of people files into a cathedral to celebrate the consecration of a new bishop—a good man, they think, strict in doctrine but capable of compassion. A man of tradition, not of reform. A "company man." His name is David Campbell. And sitting in the last pew of the cathedral is a clean-shaven man of ordinary build, with gentle hazel eyes. His name is Joshua. Within twenty-four hours of his first encounter with Joshua, David Campbell will propose the most far-reaching reforms in a millennium, reforms to destroy sectarian barriers, reforms to change the direction of the church, reforms to return Christianity to its founders with a simple message. With Joshua as his mentor, David Campbell—the Shepherd—preaches to Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and Jews of the universal truth of God's love. It is a message that changes everyone it touches. And no one who reads *Joshua and the Shepherd* will ever forget it.

Joshua and the Children

Joseph F. Girzone has woven another magical story, a modern-day parable, in *Joshua and the Children*, which gracefully continues the teachings and inspirations from his previous bestseller, *Joshua*. A stronger Joshua arrives in a deceptively ordinary village only to witness the doings of unscrupulous leaders and violent people. The children are the first to recognize that something is quite different about this stranger who has come seemingly from nowhere. It is through the villagers' children that Joshua is able to restore a sense of peacefulness and honesty. "A new day had dawned, a new spirit spread throughout the land, and it all seemed to have happened because of the simple, unassuming goodness of one gentle stranger who knew only how to love."

Joshua: The Homecoming

Joseph Girzone wrote his parable in 1983 and published it himself with neither accompanying fanfare nor expectation of the extraordinary effect it would have on people around the world. With only word-of-mouth for advertising, and by virtue of its simple message of love, *Joshua* became an international force of spiritual strength. After its modest beginnings, *Joshua* and its sequels have millions of readers around the world and continue to bring hope and peace to all who seek nourishment. When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are at first mystified, then confused by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself solely by carpentry and woodworking, and he charges very little for his services. Yet his work is exquisite. Even more exquisite, and even more mysterious, is the extraordinary effect he has on everyone he meets. All who come in contact with him can't help but be transformed by his incredible warmth. The acceptance and love in his eyes and in each action amazes the townspeople. Who is Joshua and just what is he up to? The answer to that question amazes them almost as much as the discovery of that same transforming power in each of their own hearts.

The Parables of Joshua

In the latest chapter of his bestselling Joshua series, Joseph Girzone offers fresh inspiration in this collection of fifty never-before-published contemporary vignettes that underscore the most important lessons of the gospel. Joseph Girzone's novels about Joshua, the carpenter who transforms ordinary lives with words of peace and loving actions, have sold more than three million copies and captured the hearts of readers around the world. In *The Parables of Joshua*, perhaps his most powerful book since the original *Joshua*, Girzone distills the essence of Christian teaching in entertaining and inspiring "bite-sized" tales set against the background of current society. For some today, the parables of the New Testament are quaint, old-fashioned stories, with little relevance to everyday life in the twenty-first century. As Girzone writes in his Introduction, "I have heard the most callous people comment with such great piety on the parables that I could not help but wonder if we haven't made parables pleasant-sounding fables about human situations long past, but with no present-day meaning." In order to recapture their original vitality Girzone revives the timeless messages behind the original parables by "dressing them in modern clothes," presenting them through Joshua in a conversational style that will resonate with a modern audience.

The End of Suffering

Is suffering inescapable? What is its meaning? Its purpose? How can we get through it? Transcend it? This is a book of Christian hope and inspiration for anyone who suffers, and that is all of us. It offers practical wisdom for those who suffer from guilt, loneliness, physical pain, abuse, loss, low self-esteem, anxiety, and fear. As difficult a problem as suffering is for us to understand, this book is a modest attempt to try to help myself as well as others to approach this impossible phenomenon in a way in which we can at least see some beneficial and positive purposes flowing from our suffering.

The Homeless Bishop

An accomplished young Italian bishop, Carlo Brunini chooses to become a homeless beggar so he can understand why Jesus so loved the poor. Girzone's latest novel is a "what if" book that readers will not be able to put down. Like the beloved Joshua, Carlo Brunini, aka Charlie, is destined to be cherished for decades to come.

A Portrait of Jesus

There are countless paths to follow when seeking spiritual guidance, but thousands of years of religion and theology cannot replace the premier example that Jesus himself set. In *A Portrait of Jesus*, bestselling writer Joseph Girzone recaptures the truth of Jesus that is presented in the Gospels and gives a compelling vision of the person Jesus' contemporaries must have known. In his most powerful work yet, Girzone seeks to personify Christ in the minds of readers by asking some simple questions: "What did people see in Jesus as he walked down the street? How did he approach others and what would these people take away from meeting him? What do his actions tell us about how we can live our lives today?" It is Girzone's empowering and loving understanding of the heart of Christianity that will make *A Portrait of Jesus* a groundbreaking classic in the tradition of his bestselling books, *Joshua* and *Never Alone*.

The Messenger: A Parable

From the bestselling author of *Joshua* and *A Portrait of Jesus* comes a moving, eye-opening parable about a messenger sent to reawaken faith, love, and compassion in a world that has strayed from the lessons of the Gospels. In this Image paperback original, Joseph Girzone once again weaves a story that will transform readers' understanding of Jesus' teaching and change the way they put that teaching into action in their own lives. *The Messenger* is the story of the Kingdom of Light created by God on Earth. This kingdom started as a small community and grew to encompass vast numbers of people of every race and nation, transcending the boundaries of all worldly realms. But with the passage of time, the message of peace and forgiveness, love and joy, preserved in the book, is forgotten, overwhelmed by the selfish interests of its leaders. Watching over his people, God resolves to send a special messenger to renew the spirit of compassion and freedom among the rulers of the world. Francis, who became attached to God as a young boy and never lost the beauty and joy of that friendship, is entrusted with the precious mission. As Francis travels throughout the United States, Girzone brings to life the conflicts, hostility, and pain of our times and points the way toward peace and understanding. With humility and a strong sense of purpose, Francis teaches leaders to break through the crushing letter of the law and restore its spirit, to reunite groups torn apart by prejudice and hatred through love, and to show compassion to the less fortunate by welcoming them back home to the kingdom. Under the guidance of a new ruler well versed in the book, fear and skepticism give way to the sharing of ideas and the bringing together of people of different beliefs. And the miracle that begins in one part of the world soon spreads, touching the hearts and of transfiguring the lives of the people across the globe.

Jesus: A New Understanding of God's Son

In his immensely popular Joshua novels, Joseph Girzone painted Jesus in today's world, using fiction to illuminate Jesus' message and teachings. Now he gives us a powerful non-fiction perspective on Jesus. He combines the gospel accounts of Jesus' life with stories from his own and from people around the world to create an uncommon and profoundly inspiring portrait of love.

Jesus, His Life and Teachings: As Told to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Joseph Girzone, the author who so powerfully captured the spirit of Jesus in his Joshua novels and in his bestselling *A Portrait of Jesus*, now brings his work to culmination with a beautiful retelling of the life and work of Jesus based on the accounts in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Girzone captures the greatest story ever told in language that will open the hearts of readers from all backgrounds. From the birth of the Messiah to the wedding at Cana, the Sermon on the Mount, the Passion, and the triumphant Resurrection, each episode and lesson from the life of Jesus is rendered with wisdom and freshness. Elegantly designed, this trade paperback original will find an enthusiastic audience with the millions of Girzone readers.

Joey: An Inspiring True Story of Faith and Forgiveness

Within the tiny life that is a newborn baby there exists the coded material that will evolve into a masterpiece of incredible proportions. Joseph Girzone's *Joey* tells the true story of a young boy--Girzone's own godson-whose life bloomed in just that way, unfolding in a magnificent adventure before it ended all too soon. Joey was a boy born with a smile on his face and music in his heart, a boy who was to reflect all the experiences of youth: the wonder of existence, the adventure of finding new things, the joy of discovering new love, the pain of betrayed trusts and broken commitments, the endless searching for a meaning to life and its endless riddles, and the joy of finding a wonderful God who can bring all these complex facets of life into focus. This story is about a rare and beautiful love between a young boy and God. It is a work that will give hope to the young and comfort to mothers and fathers who watch fearfully as their children enter the unknown world of life's adventure.

Kara, The Lonely Falcon

The author of the nationally bestselling "Joshua" series brings back his inspiring tale of life, love and self-sacrifice. Kara the falcon finds his world transformed when he vows never to kill another animal again, even if his very survival depends on it.

My Struggle with Faith

The author of the bestselling Joshua series and other popular inspirational books chronicles his own spiritual journey and describes with stunning honesty the difficult decisions he made along the way. Joseph Girzone has attracted a tremendous following with his series of novels that imagine Jesus living in the contemporary world. His nonfiction writings and talks on spirituality have affected audiences around the world. Girzone's ability to capture the meaning of faith in simple, direct language is more apparent than ever in this moving book about his personal journey through a dark night of the soul. In *My Struggle with Faith*, Girzone recounts the long, complicated, and often painful process he went through as he sought to find peace with his beliefs. He writes about hard decisions that set him on unexpected paths and about the immense feelings of loneliness he experienced in making those choices. In thoughtful and thought-provoking reflections he brings to life the years of searching and the deep, critical thinking that gave him the courage to embrace his beliefs, opening a world of excitement and adventure for him. In writing about what his beliefs have meant to him and about the intimate

relationship with God that has sustained and guided him, Girzone illuminates the universal human struggle to find meaning in life. *My Struggle with Faith* offers readers insights, inspiration, and encouragement to follow their beliefs and create a more meaningful spiritual life.

Never Alone

Joseph Girzone, author of *Joshua*, takes us on a personal spiritual quest in his first book of nonfiction. Joseph Girzone is that singular publishing phenomenon, an author who answers the unasked questions that lie hidden in so many hearts. The wisdom of his spirituality, at once both simple and profound, transcends the many factions of religion and speaks to millions, regardless of background, in a language all can understand. *Never Alone* is his most intimate book to date, and has already brought him many new readers because of its accepting message. In it, he unveils his personal way to God -- a way of such wisdom, sympathy, and generosity that anyone can follow it and find satisfaction, happiness, and serenity. As Father Girzone guides the reader, he brings us before a God who is neither silent nor condemning, but a patient God who heals gently and thoroughly, a realistic God who knows quite well how we function. We may be shocked or ashamed by what we see in ourselves, but God understands. In *Never Alone*, Joseph Girzone unfolds the spirituality of love and forgiveness, and directs his readers toward peace.

Stories of Jesus: 40 Days of Prayer and Reflection

Stories of Jesus provides a portrait of Our Lord in a day-by-day reflection format, based on the Gospel accounts of his life and teachings. Through these reflections, Girzone introduces Jesus and his adult ministry—from his baptism by John the Baptist through his public life and work, to his death and resurrection—pausing along the way to focus on the important people and events of Jesus’s world. Girzone invites the reader to “enter into the mind and heart of Jesus, and subtly develop an intimacy with him that may form and deepen one’s personal relationship with the Savior.” Each day opens with a passage from one of the Gospels, followed by an imaginative retelling of the story found in the scriptural text, and a brief prayer at the end. The forty-day format allows readers to use this book for Lent, or at other times of year to provide a “retreat with Jesus.” This creative approach to the life of Jesus will inspire a sense of God’s Son as someone who is a constant companion as we walk through our own lives, one who understands, guides, and loves us with deep affection.

Trinity

With *Trinity*, Joseph Girzone guides readers to a deeper understanding of this foundational concept, explaining why it is not antiquated theological dogma, but a living expression of the very essence of God. He offers support and clarity to those who already believe in God, and invites those who profess not to believe on a journey to find “an image of a God who is believable, and perhaps, even lovable.” For centuries, Christians have struggled to understand the nature of God as three persons in one. But with grace similar to that which allowed Saint Patrick to explain the Trinity by using a shamrock, Girzone takes a step back from the most arcane explanations to offer a simple, useful understanding. He begins by showing the ways God was perceived by the ancient Hebrews and reveals how Jesus forever changed that image of God. As he chronicles the growth from the time of Jesus and the early Church, writing about the challenges Christianity faced from both within and without, Girzone elucidates the mysterious ways the Trinity works in the world and especially, in the Church, as an extension of Jesus’ presence in history. Writing with passion and insight, he helps readers understand how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work within individuals as well, guiding them as they struggle along the pathways of life on Earth.

What is God?

Based on the idea that God is all around us, the author of the best-selling *Joshua* provides a simple, moving answer to one of history's most complex questions in a subtly illustrated book for all ages.

The Wisdom of His Compassion: Meditations on the Words and Actions of Jesus

Following closely the Gospel accounts of Jesus life, ministry, death, and resurrection, Father Girzone focuses on a particular aspects of Christ's nature and mission, and their significance for Christians today. Some of the meditations bring to life Jesus humor and wit; others illuminate his penetrating insights into human frailties. Together they give us a portrait of a warm and supremely compassionate being, who relates to each person as an individual of worth. Girzone shows how our own compassion is the most profound expression of God's love and wisdom. These thoughtful, incisive meditations will inspire everyone to embrace God's eternal message of love and hope, help and healing.

Joshua Reflections (Series)

In this series published after the death of Girzone, these are daily reflections written by Girzone over a number of years in the 2000s. The entries cover a variety of topics and thoughts from Fr. Grizone.

Free to Live: A Testament to a Great Adventure

This book is about Fr. Joe's Adventures as a priest. You will enjoy his wit and his dedication to Jesus. Published in 2017 after his death.

Seasons of Love (co-authored with Sr. Dorothy K. Ederer, O.P.)

Using the scripture of Ecclesiastes, this book takes Solomon's list of all human situations, and share thoughts and prayers which give meaning to our lives today. These thoughts and prayers can be used alone, with a small group or in a retreat setting. We have also provided space for personal reflections throughout the book.

Gloria: A Diary

Description unavailable

Who Will Teach Me

Description unavailable