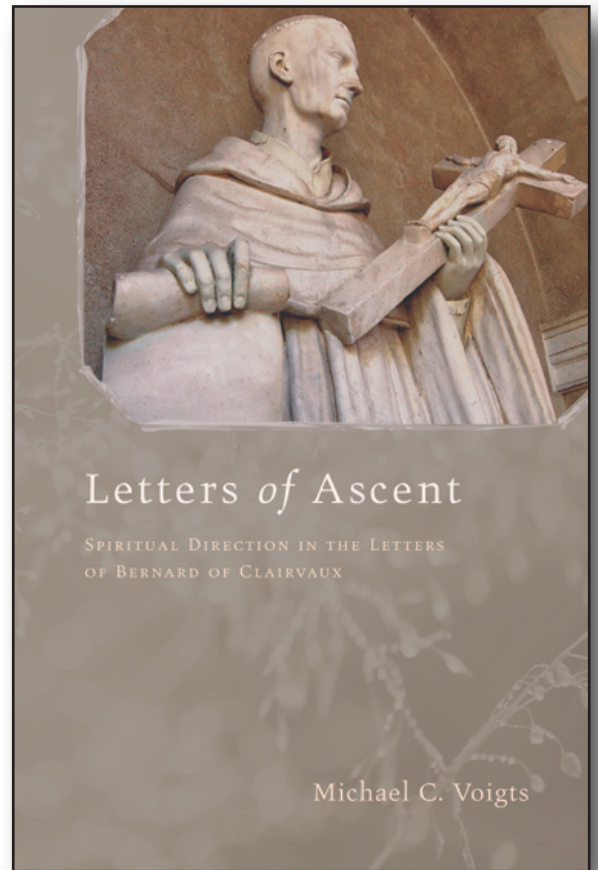


# Letters of Ascent

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN THE LETTERS  
OF BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

Michael C. Voigts

Bernard of Clairvaux is best known by many today for his mystical approach to spirituality and his eloquent sermons on the Song of Songs. In his letters, however, a different Bernard emerges—one who had fled the world for the cloister yet possessed a soaring vision for the Church on earth. By examining select letters and placing them in the larger context of the people and the world around him, we discover a man who loved the Church—but who realized that the Church is comprised of individuals who did not share his ideals and agendas. In *Letters of Ascent*, we travel to medieval Europe and view society through the eyes of one of history's most passionate ecclesiastical reformers.



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“At a time when classic Christian formation is contributing to the renewal of the church, Michael Voigts has written a book that helps restore the ministry of spiritual direction, historically practiced often through letters. And there’s no better guide from the past than Bernard of Clairvaux to shed good light on our pathway today. Read this book as if the letters are for you. They are!”

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