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# Word and Image: The Hermeneutics of The Saint John's Bible

*Michael Patella OSB*

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In *Word and Image*, Michael Patella explores the principles, intentions, and aims of *The Saint John's Bible* - the first handwritten and hand-illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine abbey since the invention of the printing press. Patella focuses not on how it was made but on how it can be read, viewed, and interpreted in a way that respects biblical inspiration and Christian tradition in our postmodern context. It is a book that is sure to appeal to academics, pastors, teachers, and educated laypersons.

Patella considers this Bible in the context of the great Christian tradition of illuminated Bibles across the ages and also the fascinating ways *The Saint John's Bible* reflects third-millennium concerns. He seeks to rekindle interest in sacred art by allowing *The Saint John's Bible* to teach its readers and viewers how to work with text and image. As an accomplished Scripture scholar, a highly regarded teacher, a monk of Saint John's Abbey, and the chair of the Committee on Illumination and Text that provided the Vision to the artists who created it, Patella may be the only one who could write this book with such insight, expertise, and love.

*Michael Patella, OSB, SSD, is professor of New Testament at the School of Theology•Seminary of Saint John's University, Collegeville, where he also serves as seminary rector. His books include* Angels and Demons: A Christian Primer of the Spiritual World *(Liturgical Press, 2012),* The Lord of the Cosmos: Mithras,Paul, and the Gospel of Mark *(T&T Clark, 2006), and* The Gospel according to Luke *of the New Collegeville Bible Commentary Series(Liturgical Press, 2005). He has been a frequent contributor to The Bible Today and is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association. He served as chair of the Committee on Illumination and Text for* The Saint John's Bible.

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