

# Apostolic Origins Of Priestly Celibacy

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**NATALEE KERR**

**From the Depths of Our Hearts** USCCB Publishing

With the mind of a theologian and the heart of a pastor, Marc Cardinal Ouellet releases this timely book to help Catholics arrive at a deeper understanding of the Church's traditional teaching on the priesthood and the discipline of celibacy. As the Church rises to the duty of evangelization amid the challenges of secularism, Cardinal Ouellet sounds a clarion call to discover enduring solutions rooted in the basics of holiness. Cardinal Ouellet deftly draws the tradition into the present, adding fresh insights that challenge us to think anew about the beauty and power of the priesthood. He shows the deep connection between the ministerial priesthood of the clergy and the royal priesthood of all believers—how they are united in Christ's priesthood, and how they work together to build up the Kingdom of God on earth. *Friends of the Bridegroom* is a book not just about the priesthood but for priests, and should therefore find a welcome home in rectories and sem

**Mandatory Celibacy in the Catholic Church** Ignatius Press

Cozzens explores priestly celibacy as a source of power and burden of obligation, as spiritual calling and gift of the Spirit. He affirms celibacy as a charism, a gift that is true for some, but only when received as a grace.

**Pastores Dabo Vobis** USCCB Publishing

"The priesthood is going through a dark time", according to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Robert Cardinal Sarah. "Wounded by the revelation of so many scandals, disconcerted by the constant questioning of their consecrated celibacy, many priests are tempted by the thought of giving up and abandoning everything." In this book, the pope emeritus and the prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments give their brother priests, and the whole Church, a message of hope. They honestly address the spiritual

challenges faced by priests today, while pointing to deeper conversion to Jesus Christ as the key to faithful and fruitful priestly ministry and genuine reform. Benedict XVI and Cardinal Sarah "fraternally offer these reflections to the people of God and, of course, in a spirit of filial obedience, to Pope Francis", who has said, "I think that celibacy is a gift for the Church. . . . I don't agree with allowing optional celibacy, no." Responding to calls for refashioning the priesthood, including proposals from participants in the Amazonian Synod, two wise, spiritually astute pastors explain the importance of priestly celibacy for the good of the whole Church. Drawing on Vatican II, they present celibacy as not just "a mere precept of ecclesiastical law", but as a sharing in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and his identity as Bridegroom of the Church. of his collaboration with Benedict XVI in writing *From the Depths of Our Hearts*. **Married Priests in the Catholic Church** Herder & Herder

"The recent sex abuse scandals in the Catholic Church raised new questions about the abilities of a celibate priesthood to deal realistically with matters of sexuality. Critics and journalists who have examined these scandals have called for an end to mandatory celibacy for priests." "In this overview, Phipps points out that "mandatory celibacy is relatively new-fangled, having appeared during the last half of the church's existence. The innovation was imposed in the feudal and crusading era, a dark period for the Church." "In order to provide this survey, Phipps probes ancient religious texts and church history and uses studies that provide factual assessments of the general individual and cultural consequences of celibacy. He avoids anecdotal evidence about celibacy and offers a balanced exploration by allowing celibate advocates and church representatives to speak in their own voices about these matters."--BOOK JACKET. Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**Clerical Celibacy** Ignatius Press

John Paul II on the mission and the formation of the priests of the future

**Clerical Celibacy in East and West** EWTN Publishing, Inc.

Edited by Dom Arturo Cattaneo Why do Catholic priests not marry? How can celibacy possibly be so important to the Church, if Jesus did not even require it of his apostles? Cannot such an obligation cause sexual deviance, emotional troubles and even cases of pedophilia? These are three among the numerous possible questions that many people ask themselves, often without finding convincing answers. In recent years the arguments in favor of openness to married priests seem to be multiplying. Some object that celibacy is not a dogma but only a discipline that originated in the Middle Ages; that it is contrary to nature and hence harmful for a man's psycho-physical equilibrium and the maturation of the human personality. And then, if priests could marry, there would be an increase in vocations. In this book, seventeen various experts make contributions, responding to these and other burning objections, allowing the reader to discover the value that celibacy has today in the lives of thousands of priests and seminarians. Among the key topics this book discusses are: History of Priestly Celibacy, What Theology Says on the Celibacy, Emotions and Sexuality, Discerning and Fostering a Vocation, Celibacy in the Life of a Priest, Celibacy and Inculturation, Papal teachings on Celibacy from Pius XI to Benedict XVI. "I hope that this book will find the widest possible readership, thus contributing to an ever greater appreciation of priestly celibacy as a precious gift of the Spirit of Christ to his Church and received by young men who-like Saint Paul and so many saints-allow themselves to be "won over by Christ". From the Preface, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy *Goodbye, Good Men* Ignatius Press Heid presents a penetrating and wide-ranging study of the historical data from the early Church on the topics of celibacy and clerical continence. He gives a brief review of recent literature, and then begins his study with the New Testament and follows it all the way to Justinian and

the Council in Trullo in 690 in the East and the fifth century popes in the West. He thoroughly examines the writings of the Bible, the early church councils, saints and theologians like Jerome, Augustine, Clement, Tertullian, John Chrysostom, Cyril and Gregory Nazianzen. He has gathered formidable data with conclusive arguments regarding obligatory continence in the early Church.

**Priestly Celibacy** Oxford University Press  
A child begs her father to take her to the baseball game, where she roots for the home team and eats peanuts and Cracker Jack.

**Celibacy in the Early Church** Simon and Schuster

In order to arrive at a correct understanding of the much-discussed topic of clerical celibacy, it is necessary to clarify the pertinent facts and regulations found within the Church from its beginnings until the present time. Further, it is also necessary to explore the theological reasons for celibacy. This can be done only on the basis of a knowledge of the relevant sources and of current scholarship, especially if this book's presentation is to be accepted as valid and credible. Before tracing the historical development of celibacy in the Western and Eastern Churches, this study begins with an analysis of the actual concept of clerical celibacy, which necessarily lies at the basis of the respective obligations that it imposes. To give solidity to his conclusions, Cardinal Stickler provides an outline of the method which a proper treatment of this argument demands. The final part of his book is dedicated to the theological presuppositions and foundations of celibacy

*The Sacrament of Charity* Wipf and Stock Publishers

Priesthood and crisis are two words that appear to be very closely related. Or so it has seemed for the past thirty years and more. The crisis in the priestly ministry is constantly showing new sides, however—the issue of the priest's own self-understanding, for example, the interplay of the various different vocations within the Church, and the struggle, in the face of a plethora of different offices and ministries, to discern what constitutes the specific priestly dimension and identity. Again and again, in his theological writings, Hans Urs von Balthasar has addressed the fundamental issues of office and ministry, of priesthood and discipleship. He has uncovered the foundations from a biblical and theological historical perspective and has offered answers to the current problems of priestly existence. This book presents the

confrontation with relevant trends, and at the same time the opposing current generated by von Balthasar, since he does not follow popular positions but instead gives us the very core of the Gospel and of revelation, like rye bread. In order to illuminate the spirituality and meaning of the life of the priest of today, von Balthasar goes back to the origins, to the apostles, to their calling, and above all to that moment from which their apostolic mission and their entire Christian existence originates, the Paschal mystery of Jesus. On the eve of his death, Jesus establishes the Eucharist and the priesthood; immediately after his Resurrection he bestows on the disciples the power to forgive sins, entrusts his sheep to Peter, and sends them out into the whole world. Thus von Balthasar considers the life and mission of today's priests in continuity not only with the first apostles, but above all, with Jesus himself. The person and mission of Jesus Christ stand at the center of priestly spirituality. Hence all the reflections in this work revolve unswervingly around Jesus Christ and his mission. Jesus is the source and norm of priestly existence. Only when God, made manifest in the figure of the Savior Jesus Christ, is understood as the center from which this priestly existence springs, and only when this enduring center is proclaimed, can the bold presumption of the Lord in entrusting his mission to weak men be understood in confident trust and attract new followers, even in lean times.

Directory on the Ministry and Life of Priests Trafford Publishing

In Enlightenment and revolutionary France, new and pressing arguments emerged in the long debate over clerical celibacy. Appeals for the abolition of celibacy were couched primarily in the language of nature, social utility, and the patrie. The attack only intensified after the legalization of priestly marriage during the Revolution, as marriage and procreation were considered patriotic duties. Some radical revolutionaries who saw celibacy as a crime against nature and the nation aggressively promoted clerical marriage by threatening unmarried priests with deportation, imprisonment, and even death. After the Revolution, political and religious authorities responded to the vexing problem of reconciling the existence of several thousand married French priests with the formal reestablishment of Roman Catholicism and clerical celibacy. *Unnatural Frenchmen* examines how this extremely divisive issue shaped religious politics, the lived experience of French clerics, and

gendered citizenship. Drawing on a wide base of printed and archival material, including thousands of letters that married priests wrote to the pope, historian Claire Cage highlights individual as well as ideological struggles. *Unnatural Frenchmen* provides important insights into how conflicts over priestly celibacy and marriage have shaped the relationship between sexuality, religion, and politics from the age of Enlightenment to today, while simultaneously revealing the story of priestly marriage to be an inherently personal and deeply human one.

Apostolic Origins of Priestly Celibacy Gracewing Publishing

Pope Francis has called mandatory priestly celibacy "a gift for the Church", but added "since it is not a dogma, the door is always open" to change. *Priestly Celibacy* fills a critical gap in the current theological literature on this important aspect of ecclesial ministry and life, and also helps to contribute to the advancement of the rather underdeveloped theology of priestly celibacy.

*Why Priests?* Ignatius Press

What causes people to give up sex?

Abbott's provocative and entertaining exploration of celibacy through the ages debunks traditional notions about celibacy—a practice that reveals much about human sexual desires and drives. *Friends of the Bridegroom* Rowman & Littlefield

"The Church today demands a profound renewal of celibate priesthood and the fatherhood to which it is ordered." Priestly celibacy, some say, is an outdated relic from another age. Others see it as a lonely way of life. But as Fr. Carter Griffin argues in *Why Celibacy?: Reclaiming the Fatherhood of the Priest*, the ancient practice of celibacy, when lived well, helps a priest exercise his spiritual fatherhood joyfully and fruitfully. Along the way, Griffin explores: the question of optional celibacy some pitfalls of celibate paternity the selection and formation of candidates for celibate priesthood why biological fathers are also called to spiritual fatherhood the powerful impact of celibacy on the Church and the wider culture In a critical moment for the Catholic priesthood, Fr. Griffin brings light and hope with a new perspective on the Church's perennial wisdom on celibacy.

*Freeing Celibacy* Routledge

Although many Catholics, and certainly most non-Catholics, are unaware of it, the rule of celibacy for Catholic priests is not absolute. The ordination of a married man is exceptionally rare, but it does occur. In most cases it happens as an accommodation for a married priest of

another Christian church, almost always Anglican (Episcopalian), who has converted to the Catholic faith and wishes to serve in the Catholic priesthood. The Anglican Pastoral Provision, a set of streamlined canonical policies established by Pope John Paul II in 1980, encouraged the reception of these priest. Since then over a hundred men-most married, most Episcopalian-have been ordained; today there are seventy-five married former Episcopalian priests serving in the U.S. Catholic Church. Based on one hundred fifteen interviews augmented by biographical, survey and historical research, *Keeping the Vow* tells the story of these married priests and their wives, their unusual and difficult journey from Anglicanism and their life in the Catholic Church. Sullins explores the perspectives of this small group of men and their wives and how they juxtapose a unique set of identities and perspectives. A full-sample national survey provides the views of U.S. bishops on the practice of married priest ordination. The book's extensive use of quotes and personal narrative helps bring these stories to life, while sociological analysis provides a clear view of their collective features and discusses implications for related social and religious issues such as conversion, priesthood, worship, marital roles and celibacy. An engaging study on Catholicism, Anglicanism, American religion, and marriage, *Keeping the Vow* expands the discussion on the future prospects and effects married priests in the Catholic Church.

**Priestly Spirituality** Ignatius Press

The issue of clerical celibacy has played a long and profound role in the history of the Christian church. From the first Christian centuries to the present day, the question of whether clergy should be allowed to marry has attracted a vast amount of theological attention and debate. Yet despite the acknowledged importance of this issue, there have been few attempts to present an objective and historical study of the origins and development of clerical celibacy. In order to address this lacuna, Dr Parish offers a reassessment of the history of sacerdotal celibacy, examining the emergence and evolution of the celibate priesthood in the Latin church from the beginning of the twelfth to the end of the seventeenth centuries. Around

this core area of study, the book also considers the influence of the early apostolic church and the example of the Greek church.

**An Historical Sketch of Sacerdotal Celibacy in the Christian Church**

Psychology Press

In this courageous work Michael Crosby offers a trenchant analysis of mandatory celibacy in the Roman Catholic Church. He shows how the imposition of celibacy has now revealed a deeper issue: the abuse of power as well as the abuse of women and homosexuals in the Church. Crosby asserts that: --to argue that the present discipline of mandatory celibacy is based on the New Testament is a misuse of scripture; --imposed celibacy continues to be used as a means of maintaining clerical control through fear and intimidation; --a religious system demanding celibacy exposes a deeper control: the abuse of power endemic throughout the system; --while difficult to live out even when freely chosen, enforced celibacy can result in dysfunctional behaviors at all levels. Integrating his personal experience as a celibate and cleric with biblical exegesis, historical study and the behavioral sciences, Crosby believes that: --healthy celibacy demands intimacy with God and others; --a healthy church will reorder its current power dynamics in a way that mitigates sexual abuse; --this will once again reveal Roman Catholicism to be a religion with an inspiring model of evangelical life and witness. This updated revision of Crosby's award-winning 'Celibacy: Means of Control or Mandate of the Heart?' also addresses the abuse of power in the Catholic Church by those male, clerical celibates who control it. He convincingly points the way to a Church that will be--with all its ministers--healthier and holier.

*Keeping the Vow* Four Courts Press

Heid presents a penetrating and wide-ranging study of the historical data from the early Church on the topics of celibacy and clerical continence. He gives a brief review of recent literature, and then begins his study with the New Testament and follows it all the way to Justinian and the Council in Trullo in 690 in the East and the fifth century popes in the West. He thoroughly examines the writings of the Bible, the early church councils, saints and theologians like Jerome, Augustine,

Clement, Tertullian, John Chryostom, Cyril and Gregory Nazianzen. He has gathered formidable data with conclusive arguments regarding obligatory continence in the early Church.

**Sex, Priests, and Power** Hope Publishing House

Based on Pope Benedict XVI's weekly teaching on the relationship between Christ and the Church, this book tells the drama of Jesus' first disciples - his Apostles and their associates - and how they spread Jesus' message throughout the ancient world. Far from distorting the truth about Jesus of Nazareth, insists Pope Benedict, the early disciples remained faithful to it, even at the cost of their lives. Beginning with the Twelve as the foundation of Jesus' re-establishment of the Holy People of God, Pope Benedict examines the story of the early followers of Christ. He draws on Scripture and early tradition to consider such important figures as Peter, Andrew, James and John, and even Judas Iscariot. Benedict moves beyond the original Twelve to discuss Paul of Tarsus, the persecutor of Christianity who became one of Jesus' greatest disciples. Also considered are Stephen, the first Christian martyr, Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, the wife and husband "team" of Priscilla and Aquila, and such key women figures as Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Phoebe. Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church is a fascinating journey back to the origins of Christianity. It reveals how Jesus' earliest disciples faithfully conveyed the truth about the "Jesus of history" and how they laid the foundations for the Church, through whom people today can know the same Jesus.

The Case for Clerical Celibacy: Second Edition A&C Black

Richard Sipe examines the continuing sexual crisis facing the Catholic Church today. Has the storm of publicity and controversy caused the church to acknowledge any of the accusations? Will the church accept statistical evidence or alter the way it trains its clergy? How has it come to grips with reforming or retraining abusers? Has it acknowledged the spread of AIDS among its ranks? Why does the church oppress women and react with hostility and fear towards them? *Sex, Priests, and Power: Anatomy of a Crisis* addresses these and other questions.