

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

This book tells the story of how eighteenth-century German Catholics rethought the Church. Educated German Catholics envisioned a Church that would solidify the link between religion, civilization, and morality. As the first account of the German Catholic Enlightenment, this book explores the ways in which eighteenth-century Germans reconceived the relationship between religion, society, and the state. Seeking a balance between Germany and Rome, Catholic reformers desired a national Church that would enjoy a large measure of autonomy but would still be in communion with the universal Church. In trying to reform the Church, educated Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire questioned not only what it meant to be Catholic, but also what it meant to be German. In the process, they created German Catholicism. Arguing that German confessional identities were recast in the eighteenth century, this book forces a revision of our understanding of the German Enlightenment and its place in modern German history.

Michael Printy is currently a visiting scholar in history at Wesleyan University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and his B.A. from Yale University. He has published articles in *German History* and *Catholic Historical Review*, and he is the co-editor of *Politics and Reformations*, a two-volume Festschrift for Thomas A. Brady, Jr. (2007). He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for study in Germany in 1994 and a DAAD Fellowship in 1999.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

MICHAEL PRINTY

*Wesleyan University, Connecticut*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521478397](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521478397)

© Michael Printy 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2009

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Printy, Michael O'Neill.

Enlightenment and the creation of German Catholicism / Michael Printy.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-47839-7 (hardback)

1. Catholic Church—Germany—History—18th century. 2. Germany—Church history—18th century. 3. Enlightenment—Germany. 4. Germany—Intellectual life—18th century. I. Title.

BX1534.P75 2009

282'.4309033—dc22

2008044141

ISBN 978-0-521-47839-7 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate. Information regarding prices, travel timetables, and other factual information given in this work are correct at the time of first printing, but Cambridge University Press does not guarantee the accuracy of such information thereafter.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page vii</i>
1. Introduction	1
PART ONE: PERFECT SOCIETIES: RETHINKING THE CHURCH AND THE STATE	
2. The Liberty of the German Church: Febronianism and the German Gallicans	25
3. The German Church and the Absolute State	55
4. Church and Empire in the Eighteenth Century	82
5. Collegialism: The Rise of the State and the Redefinition of the Church	101
PART TWO: THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AND THE UNIVERSAL CLASS	
6. Catholic Enlightenment and the Search for a Bourgeois Catholicism	125
7. A Program for Reform	144
8. Pastors of Enlightenment: Reforming the Secular Clergy	166
9. Gallican Longings: Nation and Religion in the German Enlightenment	185
10. Conclusion	212
<i>Bibliography</i>	221
<i>Index</i>	243

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Acknowledgments

This book is based on my doctoral dissertation in the history department at the University of California at Berkeley. Materially, this study has been supported by a Fulbright grant, a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and several grants sponsored or administered by the University of California, Berkeley, and the department of history, including grants from the Mellon Foundation and the Center for German and European Studies, as well as a research stipend from the Robbins Collection.

I am grateful to the staff of the Bavarian State Library in Munich, the Bibliothèque National de France in Paris, the University of California library system, and the Wesleyan University Library. Luminita Florea and the staff of the Robbins Collection at Berkeley provided essential advice for a neophyte in canon law. Clare Rogan, curator of the Davidson Art Center at Wesleyan, helped me find the print by Franz Anton Maulbertsch reproduced on the cover. I am grateful to the Davidson Art Center for the permission to reproduce it. I would also like to thank the staff and faculty at Wesleyan's Humanities Center, History Department, and College of Letters, for assistance and intellectual companionship. I am especially grateful to Jill Morawski for providing me with a genial place to work at the Humanities Center and to Ethan Kleinberg for looking out for me.

Portions of the book have been read and commented on by Margaret Anderson, Helmut Walser Smith, David Hamlin, Christopher Ocker, Ulrich Lehner, Carla Hesse, Magda Teter, and Ethan Kleinberg. I am particularly grateful for the efforts of Richard Schaeffer, James Sheehan, Marc Forster (who also shared the manuscript of his book *Catholic Germany from the Reformation to the Enlightenment* before publication),

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47839-7 - Enlightenment and the Creation of German Catholicism

Michael Printy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

*Acknowledgments*

Thomas A. Brady, Jr., and two anonymous readers for their insightful comments on the whole manuscript. Eric Crahan at Cambridge has been very helpful in moving this book along.

Tom Brady has been a model advisor and mentor. His close readings and detailed comments on numerous drafts and iterations of this project have shaped my approach to scholarship. His careful advice reflects his genuine concern for my development as a scholar. His confidence encouraged me to maintain a broad perspective when the details of my project seemed overwhelming. I consider it a great fortune to have been – and to continue to be – his student. Kathy Brady deserves special mention for all her efforts and attention over the years.

On the personal front, my wife Katherine Kuenzli has, among other things, put up with dozens of oddly named, long-dead German monks. More importantly, she read early drafts of the entire dissertation as well as the final book, patiently listening to my confused ideas before they found their way to paper. I cannot imagine a better intellectual and personal companion. Our children Oliver and Nora keep things interesting and are a true source of joy. Ruedi and Cecile Kuenzli have provided essential material and moral support, not to mention the baby-sitting.

Finally, my parents, Joan and O'Neill Printy, have been unfailing in their understanding and encouragement. Their unquestioning confidence in me is a vital source of strength. To them I dedicate this book.

Chapter 9 incorporates significant portions of my article “From Barbarism to Religion: Church History and the Enlightened Narrative in Germany,” *German History* vol. 23, no. 2 (2005). I am grateful to the editors for permission to reprint this material.