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0521781388 - Church, World and the Christian Life: Practical-Prophetic Ecclesiology

Nicholas M. Healy

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Church, World and the Christian Life

This book argues that modern ecclesiology exhibits two unfortunate tendencies: it describes the church in ideal terms, rather than directly addressing the problems of its everyday, sinful activity; and it undermines the distinctiveness of the church and its way of life. The book analyzes the impact of pluralism and inclusivism upon ecclesiology, and draws upon von Balthasar's theodramatic theory, MacIntyre's theory of traditional inquiry, postmodern critiques of humanism, and postmodern ethnography to develop a more flexible and concrete ecclesiology that can better address the practical and pastoral needs of the church. This alternative ecclesiology strongly affirms the need for the church to debate with those who challenge its claims and their embodiment, both from within and externally. The book concludes by discussing how the church may construct its own theological forms of historical, sociological and ethnographic analysis of both the church and society.

NICHOLAS M. HEALY is Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at St. John's University, New York. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Canadian Theological Society, and the Karl Barth Society.

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For Owen, Rose,
Gabriel and Griselda

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