

Builders of Community. Rethinking Ecclesiastical Ministry

Hombres de la comunidad. Repensando el ministerio eclesial

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SUMMARY

Over the centuries, the crisis in ordained ministry has not been exclusively about the problem of celibacy, even though that is important, and this book certainly includes a reflection about it. The crisis is, above all, a crisis of identity due to the progressive disfiguring of the sense of the mission which Christ left to his apostles and which made of the early church as well as the later church an essentially missionary institution. All ministry, and specifically the ordained ministry, must express this same missionary spirit in order to avoid a relapse into pre-Christian religious beliefs, such as the belief in «sacred mediators» that threaten the exclusivity of Christ's mediation, as it is ascertained in the New Testament.

It is exceedingly possible that the Church might be reaching what has been called «the time of the laity», and yet it is also possible that we might pass through this time in a sterile way, not because of not having known of its arrival, or what it was about, but because of not having understood the specificity of the ordained ministry and that of other ministries within Christian communities. 

AUTHOR

José Ignacio González Faus was born in Valencia, Spain, in 1935. He has a PhD in Theology from Innsbruck and is currently Professor of Theology and Director of the Centro de Estudios «Cristianismo y Justicia» in Barcelona. He is dedicated to the promotion and defense of freedom and justice within the framework of an integral vision of the human person. His numerous published works include La humanidad nueva. Ensayo de cristología (1974), Acceso a Jesús (1979), El proyecto hermano. Visión creyente del hombre (1989), Ningún obispo impuesto (1992) and Where the Spirit Breathes. Prophetic Dissent in the Church (1989). 