

Restructuring Religious Life A Plan For Renewal

First Steps in the Religious LifeThe Great Importance of a Religious Life, and the Continual
Pleasure Theerof Consider'd ... The Third Edition with Additions. [By William Melmoth.
Together with "Forms of Prayer, Proper to be Used Before, At, and After ... the Holy
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Religious Life to Modern Conditions Bernard J. Kelly Charles Gay (Bishop of Anthedon.) Brian
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this book is the result of two preached retreats i gave to mark the recent year of consecrated life 2015 however the origin of the material goes much further back drawing on my teaching experience both at manresa centre of spirituality and at milltown institute covering a period of thirty years in both places i had taught courses on religious life its history theology and most of all its underlying spirituality indeed i have always used history and theology and other disciplines such as psychology and anthropology in service of exploring and renewing the

spirituality of religious life another way of saying this is that i am above all interested in values as appreciated appropriated and articulated this lies behind my decision to structure the talks now the book almost entirely around the vows after an initial chapter on the origins of religious life i devote two chapters each to poverty chastity and obedience my emphasis is not on the vows as such dealing with questions that canon law might raise but on the motivating values that the vows express only these values can explain why people enter and flourish in religious life all religious without distinction are called to be radical and free

this book first published in 1984 examines the whole range of new religious movements which appeared in the 1960s and 1970s in the west it develops a wide ranging theory of these new religions which explains many of their major characteristics some of the movements are well known such as scientology krishna consciousness and the unification church others such as the process meher baba and 3 ho are much less known while some became international others remained local in other ways too such as style belief organisation they exhibit enormous diversity the movements studied here are classified under three ideal types world rejecting world affirming and world accommodating and from here the author develops a theory of the origins recruitment base characteristics and development patterns which they display the book offers a critical exploration of the theories of the new religions and analyses the highly contentious issue of whether they reflect the process of secularisation or whether they are a countervailing trend marking the resurgence of religion in the west

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