

Review by Rev. John J. McNeil, Ph.D.

The shrewdness and brilliance of the Holy Spirit are at work in the heart of the world and the church. This series of essays chronicles and diagnoses the series of steps the Roman Church has taken to silence criticism and escape the consequences of the sexual abuse in the priesthood.

The essays in this book analyze how the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church has responded to the sexual abuse crisis in a series of moves that have as their primary motive to preserve the institution and bolster its power and authority. The hierarchy is desperately trying to hang on to a celibate, exclusively male clergy, adamantly refusing to ordain married men

In the shrewdness of the Holy Spirit, these moves will guarantee the disappearance of cultic celibate priesthood. It will bring about the reform of the Church begun by Vatican II, which renamed the Church: the People of God.

The Church will become the Church that Jesus intended: a Church of equals, a Church where the Holy Spirit can designate anyone – whether straight or gay, male or female, celibate or partnered – to be the presider and leader in the community; a Church where authority will lie in the spiritual power to discern spirits, and to listen and hear what the Spirit is saying through the people of God. This collection of essays will make a powerful contribution to bringing about the desperately need reform. For this I am profoundly grateful to its authors. Rev. John J. McNeill, Ph.D. Former Jesuit, Author, *The Church and the Homosexual, Taking a Chance on God, Freedom, Glorious Freedom and Both Feet Firmly Planted in Midair.*