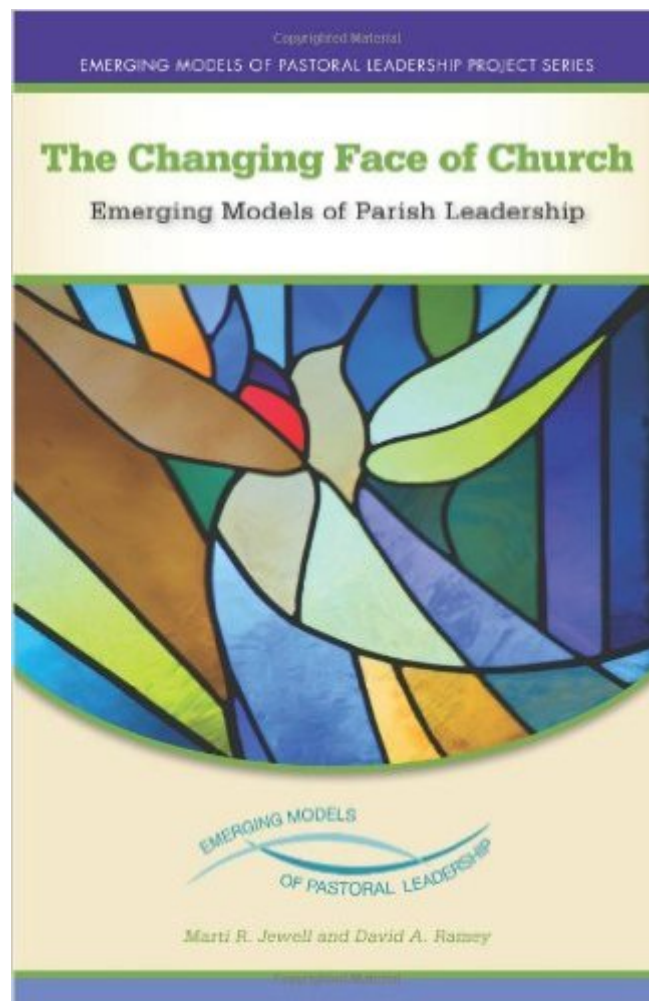


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# The Changing Face Of Church: Emerging Models Of Parish Leadership (Emerging Models Of Pastoral Leadership)



## Synopsis

Changes in the Catholic Church are happening everywhere, not least in the area of pastoral planning. Based on the experiences of more than 500 of today's pastoral leaders in the Catholic Church, *The Changing Face of Church* documents the best practices for approaching the massive, rapidly evolving challenge of pastoral planning. A hopeful view of the Church's future and its leadership comes through clearly from those who were interviewed for this book, and the you-can-do-it-too message is sure to bolster readers in their own pastoral planning efforts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Generally speaking, if an author is reluctant to use the definite article -- "the" -- before the word "Church," readers should be wary. That certainly is the case here. This book is essentially a repackaging of the same stale, problematic ecclesiology that "progressive" Catholics have been peddling since the 1970s. The vacuous Whole Community Catechesis, according to which local preferences and not settled doctrine are the content of the Faith, is given high praise. Ditto for the pernicious Reign of God theology, promoted by notorious dissenters like Paul Knitter and Ken Overberg of Cincinnati's Xavier University. This theology posits that the "pre-Vatican II Church" was ecclesiocentric, while the trend now is toward "regnocentrism," by which a very earthly -- and often politicized -- Kingdom of God is the focal point. As Pope Benedict explained in his modern classic *Jesus of Nazareth*, "On closer inspection, this whole [regnocentric] project proves to be utopian

dreaming without any real content, except insofar as its exponents tacitly presuppose some partisan doctrine as the content that all are required to accept. ... But the main thing that leaps out is that God has disappeared; man is the only actor left on the stage. The respect for religious 'traditions' claimed by this way of thinking is only apparent. The truth is that they are regarded as so many sets of customs, which people should be allowed to keep, even though they ultimately count for nothing. Faith and religions are now directed toward political goals. Only the organization of the world counts. Religion matters insofar as it can serve that objective.

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