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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: For the sake of the kingdom of heaven : shaping the celibacy debate -- If there is one faith, there must be one tradition : clerical celibacy and marriage in the early church -- Preserving the ancient rule and apostolic perfection : celibacy and marriage in East and West -- A concubine or an unlawful woman : celibacy, marriage, and the Gregorian reform -- In marriage they will live more piously and honestly : debating clerical celibacy in the pre-Reformation church -- The whole world and the devil will laugh : clerical celibacy and married priests in the Age of Reformation -- Contrary to the state of their order and the laudable customs of the church : clerical celibacy in the Catholic Church after the Reformation -- Conclusion: One of the chief ornaments of the Catholic clergy : celibacy in the modern church.
Sommario/riassunto	The issue of clerical celibacy has played a long and profound role in the history of the Christian church. From the first Christian centuries to the present day, the question of whether clergy should be allowed to marry has attracted a vast amount of theological attention and debate. Yet despite the acknowledged importance of this issue, there have been few attempts to present an objective and historical study of the origins

and development of clerical celibacy. In order to address this lacuna, Dr  
Parish offers a reassessment of the history of sacerdotal celibacy,  
examining the emergence and

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