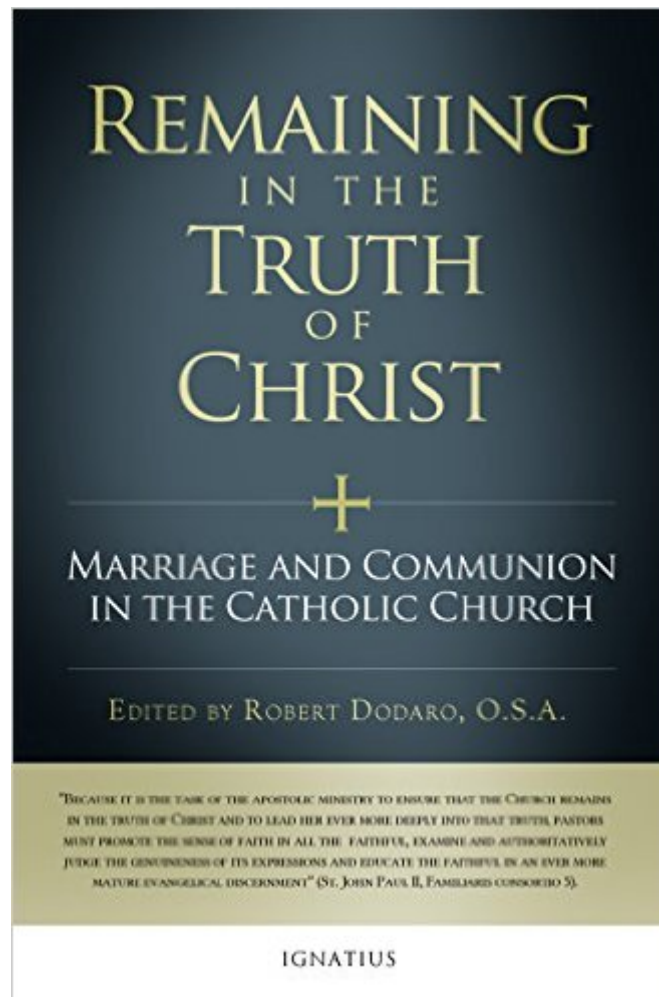


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# Remaining In The Truth Of Christ: Marriage And Communion In The Catholic Church



## Synopsis

In this volume five Cardinals of the Church, and four other scholars, respond to the call issued by Cardinal Walter Kasper for the Church to harmonize "fidelity and mercy in its pastoral practice with civilly remarried, divorced people". Beginning with a concise introduction, the first part of the book is dedicated to the primary biblical texts pertaining to divorce and remarriage, and the second part is an examination of the teaching and practice prevalent in the early Church. In neither of these cases, biblical or patristic, do these scholars find support for the kind of "toleration" of civil marriages following divorce advocated by Cardinal Kasper. This book also examines the Eastern Orthodox practice of *oikonomia* (understood as "mercy" implying "toleration") in cases of remarriage after divorce and in the context of the vexed question of Eucharistic communion. It traces the centuries long history of Catholic resistance to this convention, revealing serious theological and canonical difficulties inherent in past and current Orthodox Church practice. Thus, in the second part of the book, the authors argue in favor of retaining the theological and canonical rationale for the intrinsic connection between traditional Catholic doctrine and sacramental discipline concerning marriage and communion. The various studies in this book lead to the conclusion that the Church's longstanding fidelity to the truth of marriage constitutes the irrevocable foundation of its merciful and loving response to the individual who is civilly divorced and remarried. The book therefore challenges the premise that traditional Catholic doctrine and contemporary pastoral practice are in contradiction. "Because it is the task of the apostolic ministry to ensure that the Church remains in the truth of Christ and to lead her ever more deeply into that truth, pastors must promote the sense of faith in all the faithful, examine and authoritatively judge the genuineness of its expressions and educate the faithful in an ever more mature evangelical discernment." - St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*

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## Customer Reviews

In the first chapter of *Remaining in the Truth of Christ: Marriage and Communion in the Catholic Church*, editor Robert Dodaro, OSA, explains: "The essays in this volume represent the responses of five Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church and four other scholars to the book *The Gospel of the Family*, published earlier this year by Walter Cardinal Kasper.... This book challenges the premiss that traditional Catholic doctrine and contemporary pastoral practice are in contradiction.... The authors of this volume jointly contend that the New Testament presents Christ as unambiguously prohibiting divorce and remarriage on the basis of God's original plan for marriage set out at Genesis 1:27 and 2:24.... God's mercy does not dispense us from following His commandments." This collection meticulously engages arguments favoring a de-emphasis on indissolubility, many of which are tantamount to citing historical anomalies as supposed proofs. Yet until the final chapter, I had a nagging feeling that there was an elephant in the room going overlooked. Cardinal Burke not only sees the proverbial elephant, but he takes it by the tusks - alerting us to the need for vigilance against INVALID declarations of marital nullity, which absolutely benefit no one. This magnificent work should be part of a library on marriage in every parish, which would also include: \* Addresses of the Holy Fathers to the Roman Rota \* Arcanum\*

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