

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Sociology and Theology: a Career in Misunderstanding</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2 Liturgical Theology: Some Sociological Implications</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>3 Sociological Understandings of Liturgy: Some Aspects</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>4 Angels and Surplices: Appearing as Holy Becoming</b>	<b>84</b>
A Rumour of Angels: Sociological Amplifications of the Incredible	89
Cleanliness and Godliness: The Issue of Whiter Than White Surplices	97
Experiences of Misunderstanding the Issue of Innocence	105
<b>5 Simulation and Dissimulation: Self-revealing Paradoxes</b>	<b>115</b>
Meaningful Limits to Impression Management	123
Lies and Deception: Holy and Unholy Concealments of the Self	134
Concealing as a Form of Revealing: A Defence of Virtuous Dissimulation	141
<b>6 Holy and Unholy Rites: Lies and Mistakes in Liturgy</b>	<b>150</b>
Action and Structure: An Ambiguous Interconnection	158
Dark and Dumb Ceremonies: Fibs in Forms of Rite	165
Ritual Malapropisms: Handling Liturgical Misadventures	174
<b>7 Sacred and Profane Abasements: The Management of Esteem</b>	<b>186</b>
Deferential Gestures: The Art of Bowing	191
The Art of Placing a Profane Grovel	196
Sacred Bows and Unholy Deliveries	199
<b>8 Altar Servers and Waiters: Serving in Worlds Apart</b>	<b>207</b>
Altar Serving: A Marginal Tradition	212

An Unobtrusive Presence: The Art of Good Waiting	216
Rules for Serving the Sacred in a Pious Manner	222
<b>9 Liturgy as Ritual: Playing on Social Limits</b>	<b>234</b>
Liturgy as Ritual: Forms of Holy Openings	236
Liminal Rites: Casting the Social to Limbo	240
Awful Silence: The Real Absence in Sacred Rite	247
<b>10 Action, Symbol, Text: Hermeneutics and Sociology</b>	<b>258</b>
Hermeneutics and Sociology: Horizons of Interest	261
Holy Understandings: Hermeneutics and the Discovery of the Sacred	271
Mirroring the Holy in Rite: The Beginning of a Hermeneutic Understanding	278
<b>11 Apophatic Liturgy: Re-presenting the Absent in Rite</b>	<b>288</b>
Holy Games: Understanding Infinite Re-plays	292
Beauty and Holiness: Exceeding Sociological Limits	300
Surpassing Social Limits: Negative Theology and Sociological Understandings	310
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>321</b>
<i>Notes and References</i>	341
<i>Bibliography</i>	379
<i>Index</i>	405