

**PRIESTLY PRACTICE:  
FAMILIAR ESSAYS  
ON CLERICAL TOPICS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649009824

Priestly practice: familiar essays on clerical topics by Arthur Barry O'Neill

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ARTHUR BARRY O'NEILL**

**PRIESTLY PRACTICE:  
FAMILIAR ESSAYS  
ON CLERICAL TOPICS**



# PRIESTLY PRACTICE

## FAMILIAR ESSAYS ON CLERICAL TOPICS

BY

ARTHUR BARRY O'NEILL, C. S. C.  
Associate Editor of *The Ave Maria*



UNIVERSITY PRESS  
NOTRE DAME, INDIANA



**Permissu Superiorum**

GILBERTUS FRANÇAIS, ,

*Sup. Gen. Congr. a S. Cruce.*

**Nihil Obstat**

J. B. SCHEIER, C. S. C.,

*Censor Deputatus.*

**Imprimatur**

✠ H. J. ALERDING,

*Bishop of Fort Wayne.*



COPYRIGHT, 1914,  
BY  
A. B. O'NEILL

RAMOND PRESS  
W. B. CONKEY COMPANY  
CHICAGO

TO  
FATHER ALFRED ROY, C. S. C.,  
A FAITHFUL FRIEND FOR FORTY YEARS,  
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY

**Dedicated**





## CONTENTS

---

ESSAY	PAGE
I. Young Preachers, Careful and Careless . . . . .	9
II. The Priest as Book Censor . . . . .	26
III. Sacerdotal Ennui . . . . .	38
IV. The Methodical Priest and His Opposite . . . . .	48
V. Daily Meditation . . . . .	59
VI. A Cleric's Reading . . . . .	70
VII. The Rubrics of the Mass . . . . .	82
VIII. The Breviary: Gain and Loss . . . . .	94
IX. Preaching and Rhetoric . . . . .	105
X. The Week-Day Mass . . . . .	116
XI. The Priests' Communion League . . . . .	128
XII. A Priest's Mnemonic Feat . . . . .	140
XIII. Clerical Health and Exercise . . . . .	155
XIV. Orthoepy in the Pulpit . . . . .	170
XV. Health and Holiness in Convents . . . . .	188
XVI. The Leisure of Clerics and Religious . . . . .	201
XVII. Clerical Hobbies . . . . .	211

---

### APPENDIX

Sonnet Sequence: A Priest's Way of the Cross . . . . .	227
--	-----



## FOREWORD

THE contents of this volume have appeared from time to time during the past two decades in the pages of the *Ecclesiastical Review*, to the kindly editor of which standard periodical the author's thanks for permission to reprint are herewith gratefully tendered. The reprinting has seemed to be warranted not less by the favorable reception accorded to the essays on their original appearance than by the comparative dearth of English books of just this kind—books written by, for, and about priests.

It may be well to state that, in visualizing my prospective reader, I have had in mind, not the cleric of distinction, the exceptionally saintly or scholarly or zealous ecclesiastic, but rather one who, like myself, is merely an ordinary, everyday priest, a sort of clerical counterpart of that familiar lay character, the man in the street. Accordingly, both in the selection of topics and in their treatment, I have aimed at being helpfully interesting by telling such a reader some things which he himself has long known or felt, but which perhaps he has never found anyone to put in words for him, and by suggesting other things which, as soon as his attention is called to them, appeal to his good sense and compel his approval.

It remains to be said that if, in such incidental portrait-painting or character-sketching as ap-