All Oppression Shall Cease

A History of Slavery, Abolitionism, and the Catholic Church

CHRISTOPHER J. KELLERMAN, SJ







Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2022 by Christopher J. Kellerman, SJ

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Kellerman, Christopher J., author.

- Title: All oppression shall cease : a history of slavery, abolitionism, and the Catholic church / Christopher J. Kellerman.
- Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, [2022] | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "A history of Catholic responses to slavery and abolitionism"—Provided by publisher.
- Identifiers: LCCN 2022015608 (print) | LCCN 2022015609 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984899 | ISBN 9781608339518 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Slavery and the church—Catholic—History. | Slavery and the church—United States—History. | Abolition—United States—History.

Classification: LCC HT917.C3 K45 2022 (print) | LCC HT917.C3 (ebook) | DDC 270.086/25—dc23/eng/20220603

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022015608

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022015609

Contents

Acknowledgments		vii
Introduction		ix
1.	Slavery and the Bible	1
2.	The Patristic Era and the Early Middle Ages	16
3.	The High Middle Ages and the Scholastic Theologians	33
4.	Portugal, Africa, Spain, and the Americas	47
5.	Criticizing and Justifying the Atlantic Slave Trade	68
6.	Capuchins and Confraternities against the Slave Trade	92
7.	The American Abolitionist Movement	107
8.	American Catholicism, Slavery, and Gregory XVI	125
9.	The Strengthening of Catholic Abolitionism	150
10	. Leo XIII and an Abolitionist Church	172
Conclusion: A Theological Reflection on History and Reconciliation		193
Recommendations for Further Reading		217
Index		223