

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>List of figure</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction	1
1 Understanding the relationship between religious individualisation, community, and authority online	11
<i>Focus on the changing religious community and individualisation</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>The transformations of religious authority in times of mediatisation</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Towards religious communities of choice</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>The Catholic Church's response to the transformations of authority and community online</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>30</i>
2 Online communities as a process	35
<i>Some classical concepts of community and where they lead us</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>The emergence of communication communities: community as a process</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Online religious community as a dynamic process</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>What makes an online religious community?</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>56</i>
3 Formation of religious authority	58
<i>Researching authority formation online</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Introducing the three Roman Catholic forums</i>	<i>62</i>

viii *Contents*

<i>Religious knowledge as a foundation of authority</i>	63
Responding to questions and offering solutions to personal problems	64
Using religious knowledge in the debates on religious authority	69
<i>The emergence of informal religious experts</i>	73
Emergence of informal experts: demonstrating religious knowledge	74
Emergence of informal experts: reflecting upon personal experiences	76
The function of recognition and acknowledgement in the emergence of bottom-up experts	78
<i>Double framing of religious authority online</i>	84
<i>References</i>	93
4 Symbolic boundaries of online communities	95
<i>Discursive construction of symbolic boundaries</i>	97
<i>Community-building functions of rules and regulations</i>	106
<i>Integrative and differentiating functions of religious knowledge</i>	112
<i>Creating group identity: the representation of "ordinary Catholics"</i>	121
<i>References</i>	127
The permanence of community? Concluding remarks	129
<i>Index</i>	139