

***DOES REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH NEED TO GO BEYOND BEING A MOVEMENT OF  
BREAKAWAYS? EXAMINATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINES  
REGARDING THE PRACTICES OF CELIBACY AMONG SELECTED DIOCESAN ORDERS  
OF THE HOLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN KWALE COUNTY, KENYA***

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**ABSTRACT**

There is a growing interest among researchers in religion on surveying the relevance of the Promise of celibacy of the Holy Roman Catholic Church (HRCC) around the world. This study sought to examine the relevance of the Biblical doctrines regarding the practices of celibacy among selected Diocesan orders of the Holy Roman Catholic Church in Kwale County, Kenya, by way of descriptive, ethnographic survey. The rationale behind the study was that the Promise has always formed the core doctrine of the Holy Roman Catholic Church (HRCC), as having been endorsed by the Second Vatican Council (SVC) and by the papacy. Besides, it differentiates the Holy Roman Catholic Church (HRCC) from other churches since the question of the biblical basis of the doctrine and opinions of the clergy regarding the doctrine has not been investigated widely, this study would make useful contribution in this aspect. The target population was priests and women. The sample size was hundred. Data was collected using survey techniques in the forms of in-depth full interactive interview and semi-structured questionnaire. Data analysis was done using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Standard research ethics were observed. The findings revealed that celibacy is not in the Bible as a requirement for clergy. Recommendations are made to various stakeholders.

**KEYWORDS:** Promise of Celibacy, Troublesome Interpretation, Mixed Outcomes