Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction: Come Be My Light! 1
  Why Another Book on Pope Francis? 9
  The Theology of Church: The Two Ways 17
  Methodology and Overview 22

1. Illuminative Ecclesiology and Pope Francis 31
  The Starting Point of Ecclesiology: The Light of Faith 31
  Who Is the Church? 40
  What Does the Church Do? 47
  Theological Foundations of Illuminative Ecclesiology 55
    The Beautiful Way of the Church in Balthasar 56
    Congar: Not the Walls but the Faithful Are the Church 65
  Church, Where Are You? 76

2. The Poor Church of the Poor: Biblical, Historical, and Theological Foundations 83
  The Message of Vatican II 87
  The Trinitarian Structure of Illuminative Ecclesiology 88
  Trinitarian Origin of Illuminative Ecclesiology 92
  Trinitarian Origin and Mission of the Poor Church to the Poor 97
  Trinitarian Origin as an Invitation to Build Relationships 98
  Trinitarian Origin of the Church as a Summons to Illuminative Ecclesiology 100
  Divinization as the Vocation of the Church, Christians, and the World 104
  The Church Is a Harbor for the Poor 107
    Biblical Theological Understanding 107
    The Message of the Letter of James 110
    The Examples of the Early Church 120
## Contents

### 3. The Praxis of Illuminative Ecclesiology: Accountability, the Art of Accompaniment, and a Vulnerable Mission 133
- A Culture of Encounter: An Accountable Church 135
- Pastoral Accompaniment: Hearts That Feel and Hands That Heal 147
- Seeing Others through the Eyes of Mercy and Love 150
- Being with People: Respect, Trust, and Openness to Mutual Transformation 151
- A New Way of Doing Pastoral Ministry 153
- Encountering God and a New Life 154
- A Vulnerable Mission 155
- We Are in This Together 155
- Transformational Illumination in the Church 161
- Transformation of the Social Condition of People 165

### 4. Illuminative Ecclesiology and the Church's Social Mission in Africa 173
- The Poor of the Lord and the Poor in the Lord in Africa 181
- Illuminative Ecclesiology in Africa: The Example of Sister Angélique Namaika 190
- Tenderness and the Social Mission of the Church in Africa 195
- Illuminative Ecclesiology and Social Transformation in Africa 202
- A Celebration of Catholicity as Beauty in Diversity 211
- Dialogue with the Poor in Africa 215
- Dialogue with African Women 220

### 5. Illuminative Ecclesiology and the Ministry of Mercy for a Wounded World 228
- Mercy as a Light in the Church and in the World 240
- Merciful Faces of an Illuminative Church 246
- The Illuminative Church and Healing the Wounds of War and Conflicts 248
- Merciful Ministry of a Merciful Church in Africa: The Illuminative Path 252
- The Challenge of Sexual Abuse among Clerics and Religious and the Suffering of Victims 258

### Conclusion: Illuminative Ecclesiology as a Mission and Embrace of the Surprises of God 261
- The Church Should Never Cease To Be Surprised by God 264
Contents ix

The Church in a World of Conflict 276
African Christians Look to Vatican III 281
Salt of the Earth, Light of the World, and Hope for the Future 288

Index 293