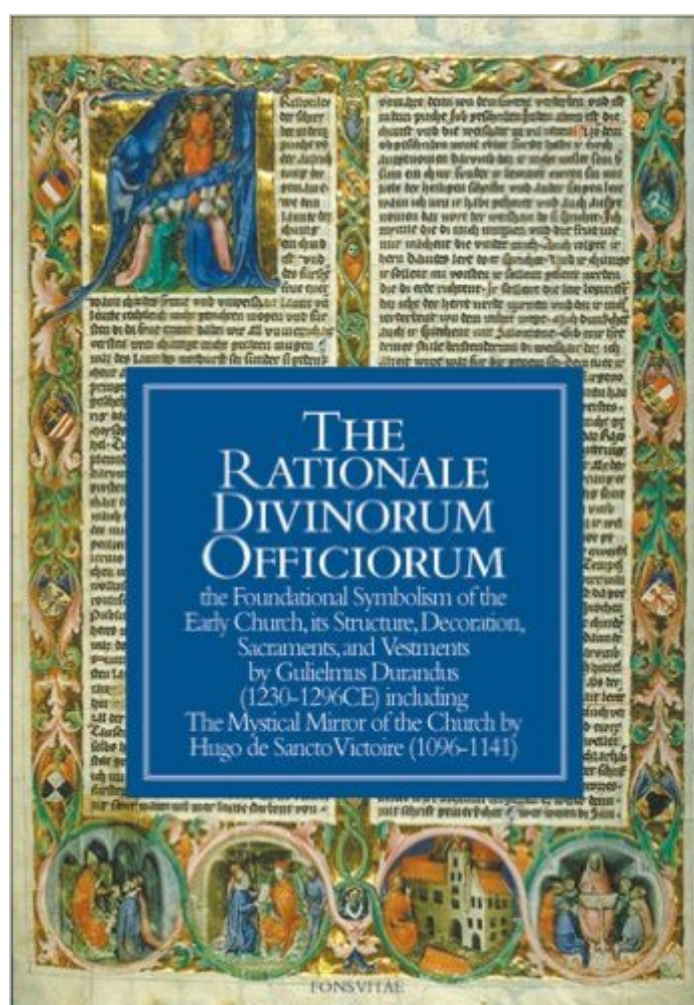


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# The Rationale Divinorum Officiorum: The Foundational Symbolism Of The Early Church, Its Structure, Decoration, Sacraments, And Vestments



## Synopsis

Providing the meanings that were originally associated with the art, architecture, rites, and vestments of the Church, this account transforms the worship experience by teaching what certain elements are used and why they are used. Claiming architects should be filled with the spirit of faith and knowledge of the meanings of all structural details and designs of the church, the author illuminates the meanings of the physical elements like the nave, the altar, the cross, and bells. He also clarifies the mystical significance of the chancel site, the glazed windows and pillars, the bell and its clapper, the altar cloths, and how the steps leading up to the altar refer both to Jacob's Ladder and to the degrees in worshippers' hearts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the recent increase in liturgical studies, one rejoices that important source material, such as Durandus' monumental opus, would be made available in English to those unable to work with the original Latin text. From the its title and pre-publication information, one would expect this particular volume to be a translation of the entire *Rationale Divinorum Officiorum*. Sadly this is not the case: it is merely a reprinting of earlier translations of Books I (J.M. Neale and B. Webb, *The Symbolism of Churches and Church Ornaments*), III (T.H. Passmore, *The Sacred Vestments*) and a recent translation of minimal parts of Book IV (R. Coomaraswamy, *The Mass*). Therefore this volume is a great disappointment, particularly as the chapters dealing with the Mass only go as far as the Blessing of the Incense after the Prayers at the foot of the Altar--essentially ending the discussion before the Mass has really begun. On a positive note, the illustrations are helpful in adding a bit of

colour to the text. One hopes that this taste of the Rationale will result in a cry for an illustrated edition of an English translation of the entire work.

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