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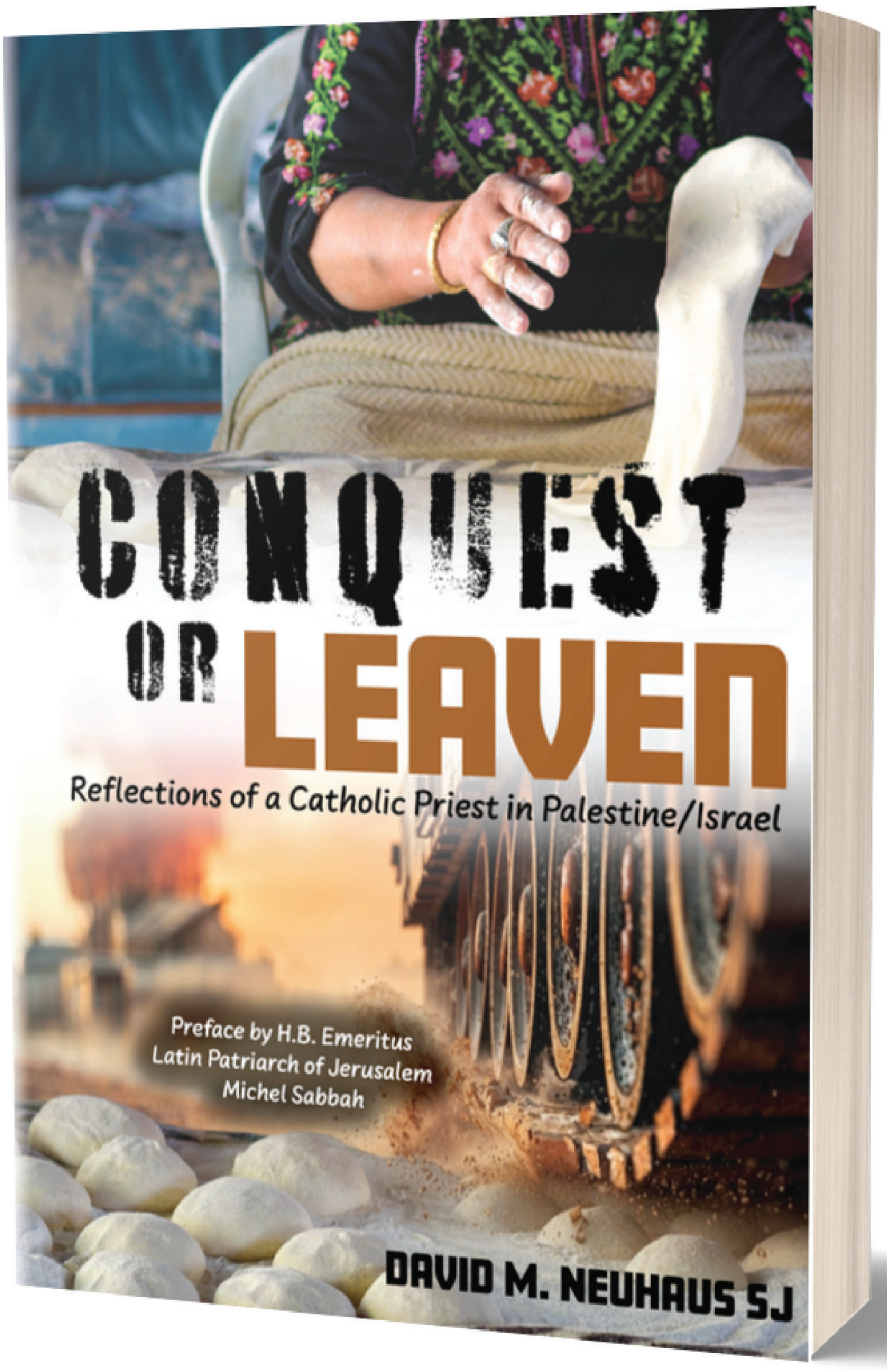

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David Mark Neuhaus SJ is a member of the Jesuit community in the Holy Land. Born in South Africa to a Jewish German family that fled Nazi Germany. He immigrated to Israel as an adolescent and was baptised into the Catholic Church in Jerusalem. He teaches Scripture in various institutions in Israel and Palestine, including the Latin Patriarchate Seminary in Beit Jala, Bethlehem University, and the Salesian Theological Institute in Jerusalem. He completed a BA, MA and PhD (Political Science) at Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He then completed pontifical degrees in theology and Scripture in Paris (Centre Sevres) and Rome (Pontifical Biblical Institute). He is the author of numerous books and articles. He is emeritus Latin Patriarchal Vicar for Hebrew-speaking Catholics, Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Israel. At present, he is also a fellow at the Jesuit Institute of South Africa.

A divided, traumatised and even dehumanised people such as those we find in the Holy Land – Palestine and Israel – is in life-giving need of transformation. In this book, Fr David Neuhaus SJ argues that the Christians of the Holy Land may play a key part in fostering such transformation — not as a neutral bridge, for Christian Palestinians are just as oppressed as their Muslim neighbours, but as a leaven in society.

Few are as well-placed to analyse the past, present and future of Palestine/Israel as Fr Neuhaus: the son of refugees from Nazism, raised in a Jewish family and later ordained a Jesuit Catholic priest, who grew up under South African apartheid and has lived as an Israeli citizen in Jerusalem for almost fifty years. His reflections, collected in this book, offer the reader an informed and empathetic overview of the issues and realities at stake, free from the propaganda and disinformation so common in much of the media. He also calls us to stand in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Who will step up to help heal the traumatised societies of the Holy Land — to be a voice for justice, an agent of peace, a guide towards the transformation that must come?

Günther Simmermacher, editor of *The Southern Cross* and author of *The Holy Land Trek*.

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