Contents

Acknowledgments vii Permissions and Credits ix
Abbreviations xi
Introduction 3
A Brief History of the Sacred 18 A Brief History of the Sacred 18 The Sense of the Sacred in Pasolini 22 Pasolini between Eliade and De Martino 28 The Archaic and the Christian Sacred 35 Religiosity: Caritas 36 Three Popes 45
2 The Passion and the Incarnation: Ricotta and The Gospel according to Matthew 52 La Ricotta 52 Il Vangelo secondo Matteo 62
 The Words of the Flesh: Blasphemy 78 Bestemmia: Barbaric Christology 78 Bestemmia: The Words of the Flesh 93 Ethical Constellations: Example and Martyrdom 106
4 The Mad Saint and the Anchorite: <i>Theorem</i> 111

Pasolini's *Teorema* 112 Emilia and Paolo 125

5 The Franciscan Model 147

Tragic and Comic Franciscanism in Pasolini's Work 147

Bestemmia 156

Uccellacci e uccellini 172

6 The Pauline Model 187

San Paolo: 1966 to 1974 187
The Poetic Idea between Relevance to the Present (Attualità) and Sanctity 195
The Scandal of the Cross, the Scandal of Sickness: Homosexuality and Caritas 203
Parodies of Saintliness: From Sant'Infame to Petrolio's "Prima Fiaba sul Potere" 215

Conclusion 221

Notes 227
Bibliography 305
Index of Names 319
Index of Films and Screenplays 323
Index of Subjects 325