

Internationale Kirchliche Zeitschrift 110 (2020) Heft/issue 1

Drei Berner Beiträge zur Trinität

Zusammenfassungen / Abstracts

Göttliche Dreifaltigkeit und menschliche Gastfreundschaft

Drei Betrachtungen und zwei Ausblicke zur Dreifaltigkeitsikone

Katharina Heyden

The article investigates the theological implications that various Trinity icons have in past and present, starting from the very famous and popular one of Andrei Rubljov. This investigation consists in three “considerations”, which are based on the iconographic-iconological interpretation following Erwin Panofsky and at the same time go beyond this methodology. A description of Rubljov’s icon is followed by the reconstruction of the development of the iconographic motif of “Philoxenia” from late antiquity to the 15th century. In light of this tradition it is striking that Rubljov presents the visit of the three men in Mamre (cf. Gen 18:1–12) without depicting the hosts, Abraham and Sara. In the third “consideration”, the iconographic tradition – as well as Rubljov’s break with it – is brought into dialogue with reflections on the relation between human hospitality and knowledge of God in Christian theology. On that basis, two “outlooks” ask what kind of Trinity/Philoxeny icon would be the most appropriate within the context of the Western world in the 21st century, focusing on the paradigm of “hospitality” in modern theology and philosophy, esp. Emanuel Lévinas, as well as on the role and position of women (Sara) therein.

Schlüsselwörter – Key Words

Ikone – Trinität – Philoxenie – Fremdenliebe – Gastfreundschaft

Vollkommene Durchsichtigkeit in kreisförmiger Bewegung: drei göttliche Personen

Georgiana Huian

One theological model that attempts to explain the unity without confusion of the three persons of the Trinity is Perichoresis, which can be understood both as mutual indwelling and as interpenetration. The first part of this article studies the intratrinitarian dynamics according to Jürgen Moltmann, Hans Urs von Balthasar, Herwig Aldenhoven and Ioannis Zizioulas – it aims to show how circular processuality, drama, non-linearity and relational ontology contain or prepare new conceptual patterns for the trinitarian Perichoresis. The second part proposes a systematical approach where the relationships between the persons of the Trinity are characterized by perfect transparency and dialogical circularity. It addresses the reconfiguration of Perichoresis in terms of «intersubjectivity» following Dumitru Stăniloae, attempts to conceptualize the dynamic of love as depicted in Rubljov’s icon of the Trinity, and finally questions both the potential and the limits of the understanding of the intratrinitarian dynamism as «dance».

Schlüsselwörter – Key Words

Trinität – Perichorese – Durchsichtigkeit – Rundbewegung – Dynamik der Liebe

Was hat die Dreifaltigkeit mit Politik zu tun? Zum öffentlich-theologischen Potenzial altkatholischer Theologie

Peter-Ben Smit

In this essay, a comparison is made between the Trinitarian theology and anthropology that has become characteristic for Old Catholic theology and for the broader ecumenical theological tradition (Faith and Order) and a contemporary analysis of Western culture based on the work of the French novelist Michel Houellebecq and his appeal to religion as a potential savior of such culture by the Dutch politician Thierry Baudet in an essay that drew much attention in the course of 2019. Using the work of the Swiss theologian Herwig Aldenhoven in particular, it is shown how the understanding of the role of religion, in particular Christianity, in society in both approaches can be understood more clearly by comparing them to each other. Beyond this, it is also demonstrated, how a Trinitarian anthropology, in which human beings become persons by entering into free relationships with each other, is incompatible with an understanding of religion that serves to make individuals submit to a group (e. g., a society or a nation) for the sake of the greater good of this group. From a Trinitarian perspective, communion and personhood are shown not to be each other's competitors, but rather to coincide and mutually imply each other. Therefore, the connection made between conservative politics and Christianity, as suggested by Baudet is untenable. In arguing this case, this essay seeks to make a contribution to the development of an ecumenically inspired Old Catholic political theology.

Schlüsselwörter – Key Words

Dreifaltigkeit – Politische Theologie – Theologische Anthropologie – Herwig Aldenhoven – Ökumenische Theologie