

Dr Roger O'Callaghan

Unity in Theology: Lonergan's Framework for Theology in a New
Context

FOREWORD

The problem is familiar. Traditional theology knew many divisions and subdivisions. But the success of the nineteenth-century German Historical School has added a new dimension to all of them, to emphasize their separateness, and to make unity less a problem for highly specialized professors than for disoriented students.

Such in brief is the new context of theology. But this book also offers a new context for Lonergan's framework. The old context was the cognitional theory presented in Insight. The new context comes out of the German theological milieu where contemporary theologians unify their work in different manners: Pannenburg stresses theology's scientific character; Rahner its churchly role; Metz the timeliness of its summons. Each of the three emphasizes a necessary quality. Each treats the same material object in a different manner. But together they offer not one theology but three overlapping theologies. The problem of unity remains.

In this fashion Dr O'Callaghan keeps the issue not only purely theological but also contemporary and concrete. His work was done at Tübingen, and his numerous, extensive and apposite quotations from influential German theologians reveal an enviable mastery of the current situation. His anticipation of objections brings to light his searching exploration of opposed viewpoints. His treatment of them is both inconspicuous and persuasive. Finally, while his work is specialist, still it solidly if only implicitly recalls specialists from totalitarian ambitions.

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