

## SEMINAR ON THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

The continuing Seminar on Theological Anthropology held one session to discuss essays in progress for its publication project on "Foundations/Issues in Feminist Theological Anthropology." Mary Ann Hinsdale (College of the Holy Cross) convened the seminar by reviewing the history of the project and introducing the book's editor, Ann O'Hara Graff (Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University, Chicago).

Professor Graff reported her conversations with prospective publishers. Presses which were interested highly endorsed the book's purpose as an upper-division undergraduate or theological school textbook. The question of broadening the audience to include lower division undergraduates and the observation that such an introduction to theological anthropology might also serve as an introduction to theology were briefly discussed. The group concluded that both of these suggestions would substantially alter the project as originally conceived and reaffirmed that the target audience would be master's level or advanced undergraduates. The discussion also brought to light that the projected work can be seen as contributing to redefining the discipline as well as presenting the traditional themes of Christian anthropology from a feminist perspective.

Eight of the ten authors presented outlines or initial drafts, which had been previously circulated. Two who were unable to attend sent their contributions. The following are the topics and respective authors.

Introduction (Ann O'Hara Graff)

### I. Foundations

- A. "Feminism and Theological Anthropology: The State of the Question" (Mary Ann Hinsdale)
- B. "Secular Feminist Theories of Woman's Person and Situation" (Mary Ann Zimmer)
- C. "Being Human: Subjectivity and Self-Transcendence" (M. Shawn Copeland)
- D. "Beginning with Human Experience: Feminist Dialogues" (Ann O'Hara Graff)

### II. Issues

- A. "When Being Human Becomes Truly Earthly: An Ecofeminist Proposal for Solidarity with God and the Earth" (Anne Clifford)
- B. "Body and Sexuality" (Susan A. Ross)
- C. "Virgin Birth and Immaculate Conception: The Subterranean Connection" (Mary Aquin O'Neil)

- D. "For Women in Pain: A Feminist Reflection on Suffering" (Patricia Wismer)
- E. "A Feminist Reconstruction of Sin" (Sally McReynolds)
- F. "*Imago Dei*: A Retrievable Symbol in Our Day?" (Mary Catherine Hilkert)

### III. Glossary and Bibliography

Each essay topic was discussed and suggestions were made to the authors. The overall content of the book was reviewed in terms of comprehensiveness and cohesion. Some concern was expressed about whether the essays were sufficiently ecumenical and whether perspectives that differ from the dominant culture's were adequately represented. The topic of grace also seemed to receive rather short shrift. The editor agreed to follow up on the suggestions that were made in this regard and to communicate a schedule for first drafts of essays.

*Business Meeting.* Given the proposed new meeting structure, there will one session of the seminar next year. Mary Catherine Hilkert offered to serve as convener and liaison to the president-elect. She asked for volunteers to consult with her in planning next year's seminar. They will plan the session and a proposal for the future disposition of the seminar (to be decided at next year's meeting). Suggestions for seminar topics/presentations should be addressed to Mary Catherine Hilkert at Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri.

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