

CHRIST—TOPIC SESSION

Topic: Latin American Christologies
Convener: Kelle Lynch-Baldwin, Diocese of Fairbanks
Moderator: Colleen Carpenter, St. Catherine University
Presenters: Todd Walatka, University of Notre Dame
Michael Lee, Fordham University

In light of the Convener's failing to submit a session summary, the précis for each paper will appear as in the convention program.

Todd Walatka presented "The Principle of Mercy: Jon Sobrino and the Catholic Theological Tradition." This paper analyzes the Christology of Jon Sobrino and, in particular, Sobrino's conceptualizing of mercy as a test case for assessing his relationship to the wider theological tradition. Sobrino's understanding of mercy stands at the heart of his theological project, fundamentally shaping his Christology, anthropology, martyrology, and ecclesiology. It is shown that, rather than being a break with earlier thinkers, Sobrino's reconfiguration of mercy represents a faithful development of the tradition that responds more adequately to the biblical witness and the challenges facing our world today.

Michael Lee Presented, "The Christology of Oscar Romero: Imitation of Christ as Preferential Option for the Poor." By emphasizing the incarnation, denunciation of sin, and proclamation of the Reign of God as the key actions of Christ, Archbishop Oscar Romero gave voice and living flesh to an imitation Christology that speaks to the crisis of global poverty today. This paper examines Romero's writings, homilies, and actions as Archbishop to uncover the Christological underpinnings of Romero's attempt to heal the social, political, and ecclesial divisions of his context. The impact of his witness across economic and ecumenical boundaries speaks to the enduring legacy of this "Saint of the Americas."