

the trinitarian foundations of God's saving will and the soteriological implications of the drama of triune love.

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PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

A PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

Presenters: Raymond J. Webb, University of St. Mary of the Lake
Gerard Magill, St. Louis University
Patricia Talone, Gwynedd Mercy College
Camil Ménard, Université de Quebec à Chicoutimi

Members of the group used the consensus regarding practical theology method, developed at last year's convention, to discuss national health care with local constituents during the year.

Ray Webb shared the results of discussions with twenty-six theology students after their internships. He summarized their descriptions, noted historical influences, listed five systematic perspectives and five practical conclusions. On the whole students tended to focus on individual rights rather than communal needs/solutions. Two other issues stood out: the meaning of death as a human event and the increased role of the community in the future of health care.

Gerry Magill reported on his discussions with ethicists and executives through the Catholic Health Association. Using the fourfold schema of Don Browning, a theological rationale can be articulated culminating in a practical theology of collaboration, holistic care, and preference for the poor. This allows Catholic organizations to network with others that provide abortion as part of a mandated benefits package and to perform sterilizations in Catholic facilities if it is part of a mandated benefits package.

Pat Talone described ongoing discussions with administrators, physicians, and employees of Mercy Health Corporation. Beginning with personal experience rather than tradition was more effective in surfacing the real issues but it also raised the problem of moving from experience to critical reflection and action, especially on threatening topics like abortion and loss of autonomy.

Camil Ménard analyzed the Canadian health care system using Browning's categories and the questions distributed to members of the seminar during the year. Practitioners have now become private entrepreneurs in a public system; patients are more like consumers; and medicine functions according to an industrial, technological model. The result is increasing dehumanization, especially for the poor and those in remote regions.

The challenge facing health care (and practical theology) is to rethink the meaning of health. Is it a right or a privilege? Is it an individual possession or a communal responsibility? Is it totally dependent on technology or on a societal quality of life? Each question implies theological values which practical theology needs to articulate and contribute to the public discussion.

To continue exploring through practice the meaning and method of practical theology, the group decided to use a variety of case studies next year focused on the theme of suffering as it is experienced in health care, societal conditions, and perhaps the Church.

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THE KARL RAHNER SOCIETY

PERSPECTIVES ON RAHNER'S CHRISTOLOGY

Presenters: Geoffrey B. Kelly, La Salle University
Robert A. Krieg, University of Notre Dame

The Karl Rahner Society divided the time of its academic gathering between a discussion of Geoffrey Kelly's paper on " 'Unconscious Christianity' and the 'Anonymous Christian' in the Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Rahner," and a consideration of the paper by Robert Krieg entitled "A Fortieth Anniversary Reappraisal of Karl Rahner's 'Chalcedon: End or Beginning?' "

Kelly finds a similarity between Bonhoeffer's idea of an "unconscious Christianity" (that a form of Christian faith exists for the nonreligious and non-Christian person who, however unmindful of it, realizes in his or her own life the pattern of the "living for others" found in the life of Jesus Christ) and Rahner's deployment of the idea of "anonymous Christianity" to hold together the seemingly exclusivist claim that all salvation is Christic with the doctrine of the