PART 2

CASE STUDIES
CHAPTER TWO
THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

Overview

The modern period extends from the beginning of the twentieth century and moves into the twenty-first century. Both realist and nominalist philosophical assumptions are found in the eucharistic theology of this period which is divided into an early period and a later period. Case studies from the early period, extending from the beginning of the twentieth century up to the end of World War II, are examined in this chapter. This early period of the twentieth century was characterised by diverse eucharistic liturgical development of both an official and unofficial type, as well as significant statements on eucharistic theology.

Themes

Realism

Realism was the dominant philosophical assumption underlying Anglican eucharistic theology in the early part of the twentieth century. Writers in the period began to apply greater sophistication to the philosophical analysis of eucharistic theology. The sacramental principle was well supported in this period with many writers acknowledging that God links signs with the signified, such that the signs are the vehicles for the delivery of grace.

The Anglo-Catholic Congresses held in 1921, 1923, 1927 and 1948, presented papers showing significant interest in realist assumptions for eucharistic theology. The sacramental principle (God using material things to convey grace) was the basis of this realist thought. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist was frequently mentioned and this was often linked with incarnational theology, where, Christ was said

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1 No detailed references are listed in the overview of themes. These details can be found in the separate case studies.