

Receptive Ecumenism and the Call to Catholic Learning

Exploring a Way for Contemporary Ecumenism

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This volume proposes a fresh strategy for ecumenical engagement - 'Receptive Ecumenism' - that is fitted to the challenges of the contemporary context and has already been internationally recognised as making a distinctive and important new contribution to ecumenical thought and practice. Beyond this, the title tests and illustrates this proposal by examining what Roman Catholicism in particular might fruitfully learn from its ecumenical others.

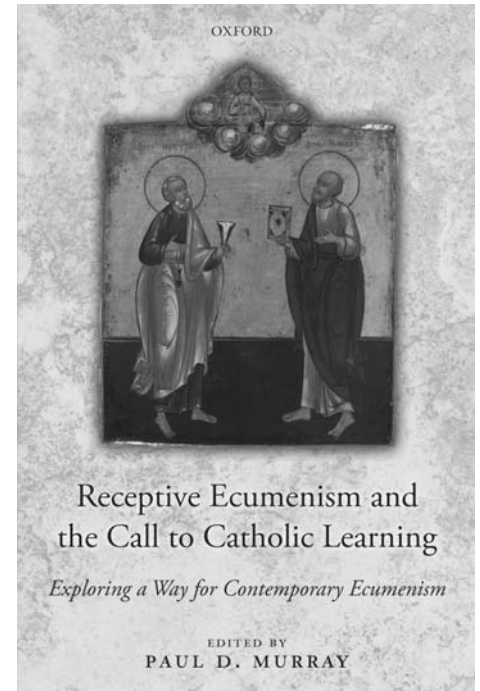
Challenging the tendency for ecumenical studies to ask, whether explicitly or implicitly, 'What do our others need to learn from us?', this volume presents a radical challenge to see ecumenism move forward into action by highlighting the opposite question 'What can we learn with integrity from our others?'

This approach is not simply ecumenism as shared mission, or ecumenism as problem-solving and incremental agreement but ecumenism as a vital long-term programme of individual, communal and structural conversion driven, like the Gospel that inspires it, by the promise of conversion into greater life and flourishing. The aim is for the Christian traditions to become more, not less, than they currently are by learning from, or receiving of, each other's gifts.

The 32 original essays that have been written for this unique volume explore these issues from a wide variety of denominational and disciplinary perspectives, drawing together ecclesiologists, professional ecumenists, sociologists, psychologists, and organizational experts.

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'Pope John II memorably described ecumenism as an exchange of gifts - a formula that opens up a hopeful path into the future. Such an exchange requires willingness both to give and to receive. An international panel of experts in this symposium offer a rich sample of current ecumenical thinking, considering what it might mean for the Catholic Church to receive the distinctive gifts of the Anglican, Methodist, and Orthodox communions without diminishing her own distinctive endowments.'

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